FANTASYLAND PREVIEW — PAGES 16-17

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# Vendors, show organizers both optimistic for 2013 Gibtown show

**STORY:** *Pam Sherborne*
*psherborne@amusementtoday.com*

GIBSONTON, Fla. — Len Soled, Rides-4-U, Somerville, N.J., is riding a good high in ride sales as he goes into the 44th International Independent Showmen's Association (IISA) Super Extravaganza and Trade Show set for Feb. 5-9, Gibsonton, Fla.

And, no doubt Super Extravaganza and Trade Show organizers continue to be optimistic while they plan for a big turnout. They are expecting to have more than 300 different exhibits at the show including rides, food supplies and equipment, concession trailers, electrical supplies, insurance companies, novelty items, plush toys, jewelry and much more.

Soled said production schedules have been filling in nicely for the likes of KMG, just one of the ride manufacturers Soled represents. He also represents S&S and SBF/Visa and sales have also been going well with those ride manufacturers. He is indeed optimistic for the Gibsonton show as well as for the upcoming 2013.

"Production schedules are definitely filling in for KMG for the 2013 and 2014 years," Soled said. "I will bring two KMG Speed rides to Gibtown this year. One is going to Ray Cammack Shows and the other to NAME. I will have an SBF/Visa Flying School at Gibtown that is going to Beuce Carnival. I will bring a Groovy Bus that is going to Leurhs' Ideal Rides and a S&S Frog Hopper that is going to Alpine Amusements."

He also was planning to bring two other SBF/Visa rides

**Albert Frienden, Battech Entertainment, Salem, Ore., will exhibit his motorcycle ride at the Gibsonton Extravaganza and Trade Show. The new ride is still in production and the first one has been purchased by P.B.J. Happee Days Shows. Frienden has designed the ride with a sidecar so that two older children can ride together or a younger child can ride with an adult in the sidecar.**
COURTESY BATTECH ENTERTAINMENT

IISF exhibitor listing...Page 6

— Flying Elephant and Dog Ride. Those two rides hadn't been sold when Soled spoke with *AT* in mid-January, but he hoped they would be before the Gibsonton show started.

Mai Wisdom, Wisdom Industries, Merino, Colo., hopes that many of their customers that were worried about election results and the implementation of President Barrack Obama's health care plan last fall have gotten past that worry and are feeling more optimistic as she and her husband, Victor Wisdom, put the finishing touches to their Gibsonton trip.

"Talking to our customers last fall, we know many of them were worried," Wisdom said. "We are hoping that there will be a good turnout at Gibsonton and that everyone has gotten past the elections."

Gloria Myers, Myers International Midways, will take over as president of the IISA in Feb. 12, right after the event is over. She will take the reins from Mark Popovich, who served last year.

Myers said the clubs' recent events have been very successful. The latest was the Bike Fest held last month. It was the 10th year for that event.

"It was a very big success," she said.

Myers said it seems the tradeshow has been getting a little smaller over the past years.

"But, it is really just he way things are changing," she said. "People can just click on the Internet and get anything they want. Also, ride manufacturers don't really build a ride until they have one ordered. It used to be they would bring rides to the show and take bids on them. But, the ones brought to the show now are already purchased by someone. It is the same for concession trailer manufacturers. They don't build one unless they have it ordered.

"Times are just changing for everyone," she said. "But, Gibtown is a big social event for us. It always has been and it always will be."

**Events**

And, there are plenty of social events scheduled throughout the week of the Super Extravaganza and Trade Show. Some of those events will get under way Sun., Feb. 3, such as the annual Super Bowl and Kick-Off Party.

On Mon., Feb. 4, the "Big Hearted Jerry's" Memorial Golf Tournament is set and a Showmen's Shrine Meeting is also scheduled.

The Museum Build Fund Dinner and Jamboree is set for Wed., Feb. 6. Then, on Thurs., Feb. 7 is Mark's (Popovich) Banquet and Ball. On Sat., Feb. 9 is the Final Drawings for Scholarship, Cemetery and La-

See GIBTOWN, page 4

**Len Soled, Rides-4-U, Somerville, N.J., will take two KMG Speed rides to the IISA Extravaganza and Trade Show set for Feb. 5-9, Gibsonton, Fla. One will go to Ray Cammack Shows and the other to NAME.**
COURTESY RIDES-4-U

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# NEWSTALK

OPINIONS CARTOON LETTERS AT CONTACTS

**EDITORIAL:** *Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com*

## The "charm" returns to Knott's

**Slade**

As theme parks change management styles it's easy to see parks get into a mode where they focus in on the big new marketable attraction. That thought process will sometimes leave the older, more established attractions somewhat forgotten about. Yet, those old favorites continue to crank out their steady hourly capacity, all the while age on the attraction begins to move in.

Then, all its takes is one move by corporate, to place a manager back in a park where their career began, and all of a sudden, new eyes are seeing the park today all while remembering the park the way it used to be.

Such was the case when Raffi Kaprelyan made the move from Canada's Wonderland back to his home park Knott's Berry Farm recently. As park VP & GM, and living under the shadow of Disneyland, Raffi has made it a point to bring some of the old time "charm" back to his beloved Knott's Berry Farm.

It started with the rehab of the park's historic Ghost Town section that saw black asphalt walkways replaced with new themed/stamped concrete walkways and sideways. New facades were built onto the building fronts and period costumed street entertainers were added to interactwith the park guests. The rehab of the historic section has been nothing short of perfection.

Now Raffi is at it again with the announcement that the park is underway on a complete rehab of their family favorite, the Timber Mountain Log Ride.

Opened in 1969, this Arrow-built ride was the creation of the late-Bud Hurlbut who also built the park's Calico Mine Ride. Bud created a mega-themed log ride complete with mountain, logging animation and timber storyline. The ride was way ahead of its time. Prrof is by the 98.9 million rides that have been given to date.

Animation experts Garner Holt Productions have been brought in to bring Arrow's 13th log ride back to its original glory and much more.

Congratulations to Raffi and his team for taking care of the little details and not forgetting their park roots. The "charm" is returning — one attraction at a time.

***—Gary Slade***

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*Gary Slade is the founder and publisher of Amusement Today. His love for amusement parks began at age six when he first visited Pontchartrain Beach Amusement Park and Six Flags Over Texas. His long newspaper career helped lead to the launch of AT in 1997.*

**CARTOON:** *Bubba Flint*

**EDITORIAL:** *Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com*

## Milestone anniversaries coming thick and fast

**Mellor**

In any walk of life things come and go and the business arena is no exception. Organisations of all shapes and sizes go through good and bad times, prosperous and not so prosperous years, with some falling by the wayside for a variety of reasons while others continue to succeed for many, many years.

So it is in the amusement and theme park industry. Ever since parks have been in operation there have been those that have come and gone and others that have survived to this day, while as well as the parks there are a number of manufacturers and suppliers around the world who can also look back on many years of success with satisfaction at what they have achieved.

The maturity of the attractions industry, particularly in the northern hemisphere, is being reflected on a regular basis nowadays with the celebration by parks and companies of key anniversaries, significant dates that those involved can be justly proud of and which show the longevity of organisations within the business – and of the industry itself.

A few examples spring to mind. Disney's EPCOT kicked off its 30th anniversary celebrations in October last year (I remember driving past the building site in November 1980), while on the other side of the pond, Disneyland Paris marked its 20th anniversary (can you believe it!) in 2012 too. A little further north, Efteling in The Netherlands marked its 60th. birthday in May last year, while this year, the Dutch venue Slagharen Theme Park and Resort will celebrate its 50th. anniversary.

As far as manufacturers and suppliers are concerned, John H. Rundle in the UK will mark its 100th. anniversary in 2013 while ride inspection company LTC, also in the UK, celebrates its 25th. In Italy, Dotto Trains marked 50 years of production in 2012 while back in the US, Jack Rouse Associates marked its 25th anniversary at the end of the year.

There is clearly much to celebrate in this great business of ours with these significant milestones and long may we be able to report on such occasions.


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# 2 MINUTE DRILL

**COMPILED:** *Janice Witherow*

## Tracy Velasquez, Cliff's Amusement Park

Born into the amusement business, Tracy Velasquez is part of a third-generation of the family owned and operated Cliff's Amusement Park in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She actually starting working at the park at age 12 as a member of the clean-up crew and has held several various positions before taking on her current role of Operations Manager. Tracy enjoys fishing, camping and cooking with her husband (whom she has known since she was 16 years old)!

**Tracy Velasquez, operations manager for Cliff's Amusement Park, is seen in front of the park's new monkey-themed AquaPlay structure from WhiteWater West.**
**AT/GARY SLADE**

**Title**
Operations Manager.

**Number of years in the industry**
I was born into it, but actually started working at the age of 12.

**Velasquez**

**Best thing about the industry**
Watching the little kids coming in the park with HUGE smiles on their faces.

**Favorite amusement ride**
Any type of roller coaster.

**If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be …**
Good question! I haven't really done anything else except bus tables or work at fast food restaurants. Maybe open a restaurant; my husband and I love to cook.

**Biggest challenge facing our industry**
First and foremost, the economy. But it is also staying on top of implementing ideas to bring the guests back year after year, whether it be a new attraction and/or new marketing strategies.

**The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is …**
Working with and training young adults. I often run into former employees and they usually say that working at Cliff's was the best experience they had and they really learned a lot. That makes me feel good.

**Favorite outdoor activity**
Camping and fishing.

**The band that I would really like to see reunite is …**
I have no idea!

**The first thing I do when I get to work is …**
I'm usually the one to make the coffee.
If you could live at any period of time, except the present, when would it be?
The 1920's.

**The most beautiful place I have ever been is …**
My husband and I took a trip to Seattle this fall and fell in love with it.

**My all-time favorite dessert would have to be …**
German chocolate cake.

**The last magazine I bought was …**
Don't laugh, but I usually buy the gossip magazines. My husband always says that what they are saying isn't true, but I still like to read them.

**My "don't miss" TV show is …**
ALF.

**The super-hero I most identify with is …**
Wonder Woman.

**The three things I always have in my laundry room are …**
Dirty clothes! And, laundry soap and Bounce dryer sheets.

**What historical figure would you most like to meet?**
Jesus.

**You enjoy fishing. What's your "best catch"?**
I actually caught a 38-pound salmon in Alaska.

**Twenty years from now, I hope to be …**
Traveling the world.

**The sport I watch most often is …**
I recently became a Denver Broncos fan, so football is the only sport I watch. GO BRONCOS!

**When making dinner, my "go-to" meal is …**
Enchiladas.

**I wish I had more time to do this**
Spend more time with my grandkids.

**My next vacation will be …**
We are actually going back to Seattle this upcoming fall.

**The last song I sang out loud was …**
Happy Birthday!

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

*Presented by*

www.RollerCoasterMuseum.org

**•1907: Elmer 'Skip' Dundy** died unexpectedly on February 5. As the famous partner of **Frederic Thompson**, the duo met at the **Buffalo Pan American Exposition**, and would later build an empire in **Coney Island**, Brooklyn, New York, with the 1903 opening of **Luna Park**. Dundy died of dilation of the heart accelerated by pneumonia.

**•1908:** Sixteen persons were injured, five of them seriously, on the evening of February 24, at **White City** (later Lakeside Park) in Denver, Colorado. This was the first serious incident at the new amusement park west of the city. A car on the **Scenic Railway** left the tracks and hurled the occupants to the ground ten feet below. Investigators found the accident was due to the absence of a guard rail on a curve. Ironically, the ride was incomplete and was in testing mode.

**•1925:** On February 28, during the testing of the **Giant Racer**, at **Coney Island**, Brooklyn, New York, the general manager and several employees were injured when the coupling pin broke between two cars and the car fell backward crashing into the structure at the bottom. Three were injured and the ride was investigated by the police. After repairs, it was opened, but only ran two more seasons, as two new coasters (the **Thunderbolt** and **Tornado**) opened, reducing business drastically. In 1926 the ride was sold to the **Rosenthal Brothers**, who would build what many still consider the most famous roller coaster in the world, the **Cyclone**.

**•1925: Traver Engineering Company** began erecting the **Cyclone** at **Revere Beach**, Massachusetts, in February, on the site of one of the first **L.A. Thompson Scenic Railways** in the world. The 90-foot-high wood coaster, designed by **Frederick Church**, would operate until 1969, along 500 feet of the Boulevard overlooking the beach. Two years later **Harry Traver** would open his **Lightning**, which was added to compete with the **Cyclone**. The Lightning was removed during the Depression, but the Cyclone would stand until its demise in 1973, after several fires.

**•1932:** The famous **Steeplechase Amusement Pier** structure on the Boardwalk, was destroyed by a fire on the evening of February 14, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. With losses estimated at $500,000, owners announced that the famous pier would be rebuilt by the summer season.

**•2001:** On February 4, **Disney's California Adventure**, a 64-acre, second theme park adjacent to the original DIsneyland, opened its golden gates to the public. Included in the expansion was a **Downtown Disney** shopping and entertainment district and Disney's **Grand Californian Hotel.** Originally themed to California culture and landmarks, the park was not well received and performed poorly for several years. Just six years after the original opening, Disney announced the park would receive a $1.1 billion, multi-year redesign and expansion.

***—Compiled by Richard Munch, NRCMA and Jeffrey Seifert, AT***

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**Wisdom Industries, Merino, Colo., plans to showcase their Jungle Twist spin coaster at the upcoming Gibtown show as well as their newly designed Rampage. Mai Wisdom described the Rampage as "a new old ride."**
COURTESY WISDOM

## GIBTOWN

**Continued from page 1**

dies of the IISA.

Other activities set for Feb. 9 are the Memorial and Mass, and the Showmen's Shrine Annual Meeting.

There will be live music nightly on the club grounds.

But, the tradeshow is the stage that all the other events revolve. Trade show hours this year will run 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues., Feb. 5- Saturday, Feb. 9.

**Products on display**

Some of the products seen from exhibitors will include several from Wisdom Industries. Mai Wisdom said they will bring three rides to the show — Jungle Twist, Monster Truck, and Rampage.

"The Rampage is a new old ride," Mai Wisdom said. "We are redesigning it and putting new seats on it. Of special note, we are in the process of building a Himalaya type park model ride for Funspot America in Orlando. This is the largest park ride we have done and we are very excited about how it is turning out."

Kevin Dalton, Dalton Kid-Ride, Foley, Mo., plans to bring his tractor ride. He is delivering that ride to Roger Wadkins, Sherwood Amusements, after the show.

Albert Frienden, Battech Entertainment LLC, Salem, Ore., will exhibit his motorcycle ride, a new ride that still in production. The first one, which includes a sidecar, has been purchased by P.B.J. Happee Days Shows and is expected to be delivered in May.

B.J. Toy Company Inc., Pen Argyle, Penn., will showcase its line of stuffed plush toys, as will Best Toy Mfg. Ltd., Brooklyn, N.Y.; Classic Toy Co., Inc., Cleveland, Ohio; Peek-A-Boo Toys, Pennsauken, N.J., and others.

**Education sessions**

Educational sessions have also been scheduled for the week. All are held in the Carousel Pavilion.

Pre-Opening Inspections of Rides and Attractions is set for 10:30-11:30 a.m., Tues., Feb. 5. It will covers things to consider when putting a daily inspection program together or upgrading existing programs. The speaker will be Tom Carey, sponsored by The Lundy Group.

On Wed., Feb. 6, from 11 a.m.-12 noon, Tom Carey will also address Portable Generator Safety. This session will take participants from determining the size of portable power unit needed for a particular size of show through proper installation of power units.

Then from 12 noon-3 p.m., the JKJ Workforce Agency and the Small Business Workforce Alliance will present educational and empowerment seminars. This session will be repeated 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri., Feb.8. This series will update industry professionals on what is happening with foreign labor in 2013 on a national level and how that will affect them. It will also give updates on the H-2B Visa program.

It will be moderated by James Judkins, president of JKJ Workforce Agency, Inc and the Small Business Workforce Alliance. Presentations will be made by John Meredith, president of Meredith Advocacy Group; Joe A. Nichols, attorney, The Law Office of Joe A. Nichols; and James K. Judkins, president of JKJ Workforce Agency, Inc.

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# 2013 I.I.S.F. TRADE SHOW & EXTRAVAGANZA EXHIBITOR LISTING

## February 5-9, 2013 Show Hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Gibsonton, Fla.

### 0-9

5centride.com ..... 602

### A-B

AAP Inc. ..... Outside
Action Lighting ..... 510-511
Allied Specialty Insurance Inc. ..... 403/503
American Changer Corporation ..... Outside
Amusement Financing/Usedrides.com .... Outside
Amusement Supply Company ..... Outside
***Amusement Today*** ..... **702**
Anchor Industries Inc. ..... 415-416/515-516
Audio Innovators, Inc. ..... 725-726
B J Toy Company, Inc. ..... 114-116
Berk Enterprises ..... 410-414
Best Toy Mfg. Ltd. ..... 1018-1020
Blend Pak ..... 111
Bob's Space Racers Inc. ..... Outside
Bones National Prize & Toy ..... 1118-1128
Burton & Company, P.A. ..... Non Exhibiting Supplier
Buzz Barton - Ice Man ..... 301

### C-D

Caravans Unlimited, Inc. ..... Outside
Carmiflavor & Fragrance Co., Inc. ..... 321-322
*Carnival Magazine* ..... Breezeway
Carnivalwarehouse.com ..... Breezeway
Carolina ATM Services Inc ..... 905-906
Carousel Softoys Inc. / Caravan ..... 118-125/218-225
Carousels USA ..... 312
Cavallaro Concessions ..... Outside
CCA/Custom Change Aprons ..... 525-527
Checkers Industrial Safety Products, Inc. .....
..... Non Exhibiting Supplier
Chestnut Identity Apparel Inc. ..... 610-616
Chipstix USA LLC ..... 107-108
Classic Embroidery Designs ..... 718
Classic Toy Co., Inc. ..... 703-713
Classy Chassis ..... Outside
Coin, Currency & Document Systems Inc. ..... 910
Computerized Accounting Technics ..... 513
Crescent Group International, Inc. ..... 814-815
Dalton Kid Rides ..... Outside
Daniel O'Connor & Sons Inc. ..... 315
Dartron AKA Battech Ent. LLC ..... Outside
David B. McEwen ..... Non Exhibiting Supplier
Dayva International ..... 819-820/919-920
Decap Organ Co. International ..... Outside
DRV Luxury Suites ..... Outside

### E-F

Economy Tent International ..... 714-716
Eli Bridge Co ..... 319-320
Elkins Distribution ..... 113
Emiliana Luna Park Ltd .... Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Fabbri Amusements, Inc. ..... 807
Fibre Core Trailers ..... Outside
Firestone Financial Corp. ..... 1129-1130
Frederiksen Industries, Inc. ..... Outside
Fred's Tents & Canopies ..... 727-728
Fun & Fun Toys, Inc. ..... 622-623
Fun Food Factories ..... 109

### G-H

Galaxy Amusement Sales ..... Outside
Gloworks Imports, Inc. ..... 1004-1005
Goffa International Corp ..... 719-721
Gold Medal Products Co. ..... 422-424/522-524
Good Stuff Corporation ..... 830 / 930
Gotek Cart Systems Inc. ..... 521
Gull Wing Industries Inc. ..... Outside
H G Weld ..... Outside
Haas & Wilkerson Insurance ..... 618-620
Hayes Specialties Corp. ..... 308-310
Hitch-Hiker Manufacturing, Inc. ..... Outside

### I-J

ITAL International LLC ..... 305-306
Jimmy's Signs ..... Slab 'B'

### K-M

K & K Insurance Group, Inc. ..... 724
Kelly Toy USA Inc. ..... 1006-1011
KMG International ..... Outside
Knight Equipment Co., Inc. ..... Slab 'D"
M. Manufacturing, Inc. ..... Outside
Marathon Homes Corp ..... Outside
Matt's Web Design ..... Breezeway
Midway Stainless Fabricators ..... 805-806
Midway Stainless Fabricators ..... Outside
Moore Industrial Hardware .....
..... Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Murphy Amusements ..... Outside Space

### N-O

Nanco/Nancy Sales Co. Inc. .....
..... 404-409 / 504-509 / 603-609
National Ticket Company ..... 601
Navistar Inc. Tampa Used Truck Center ..... Outside
New Horizons RV Corp ..... Outside
NICA/National Independent Conc. Assoc. ..... 621
On Site Signs Ohio ..... 808-809
On-Site Canvas Products, Inc. ..... 208
Oregon Rides, Inc. (dba ORI IND) ..... 316
Outdoor Amusement Business Association .....
..... Breezeway
Owen Trailers Inc. ..... Outside

### P-R

Peek-A-Boo Toys ..... 326-331
PLH Consulting, Inc. ..... Breezeway
Poster Originals ..... 318
Rapsure Concession Trailers Inc. ..... Outside
Red Bone Products, Inc ..... Outside
Rhode Island Novelty Co., Inc. ..... 1022-1030
Ride Parts Inc. ..... 812-813
Rides-4-U, Inc. ..... Outside
Rocken Graphics ..... 1107-1108

### S-T

Seatbelt Solutions LLC ..... 1021
Shalom Toy Co., Inc. ..... 824-827
Show Me Fabrication, Inc. ..... Outside
Showmen Supplies Inc. ..... Outside
Sippers by Design ..... 701
Sobyco Electric Supply Inc. ..... Outside
Space Craft Mfg., Inc. ..... Outside
Specialty Insurance Ltd. ..... 1003
Sterling Jewelers ..... 1001-1002
Store on Wheels, Inc. ..... 828 / 928
Taylor Freezer of Albany Inc. ..... Outside
*Tourist Attractions & Park Magazine* .. Breezeway
Toy Factory LLC ..... 922-927
Toy Network ..... 912-916 / 1012-1016
Traioler Connection / Recreatiion by Design .....
..... Outside
Triangle Poster & Printing Co. ..... 630 / 730
Truckers Accounting & Permitting Service .....
..... Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Tyaut Designs Company ..... 425-426

### U-V

Uni-Glide Trailer Co. ..... Outside
Urethane Associates Inc. ..... 911
Vertical Reality ..... Outside
Victor Products Inc. ..... 427-428 / 528
Virginia Toy & Novelty ..... 822-823
Visa / SBF (Italy) ..... Outside

### W-Z

Wadkins Expo Wheel ..... Outside
Waterloo Tent & Tarp Co., Inc. ..... 803-804 / 903-904
Waterloo Tent & Tarp Co., Inc. ..... Outside
Waymatic, Inc. ..... Outside
Wells Cargo, Inc ..... Outside
Wisdom Rides Inc. ..... Outside
Wizard Show Painting ..... 816
Worldride Service & Supply Inc. ..... Outside
Zamperla Inc. ..... Outside

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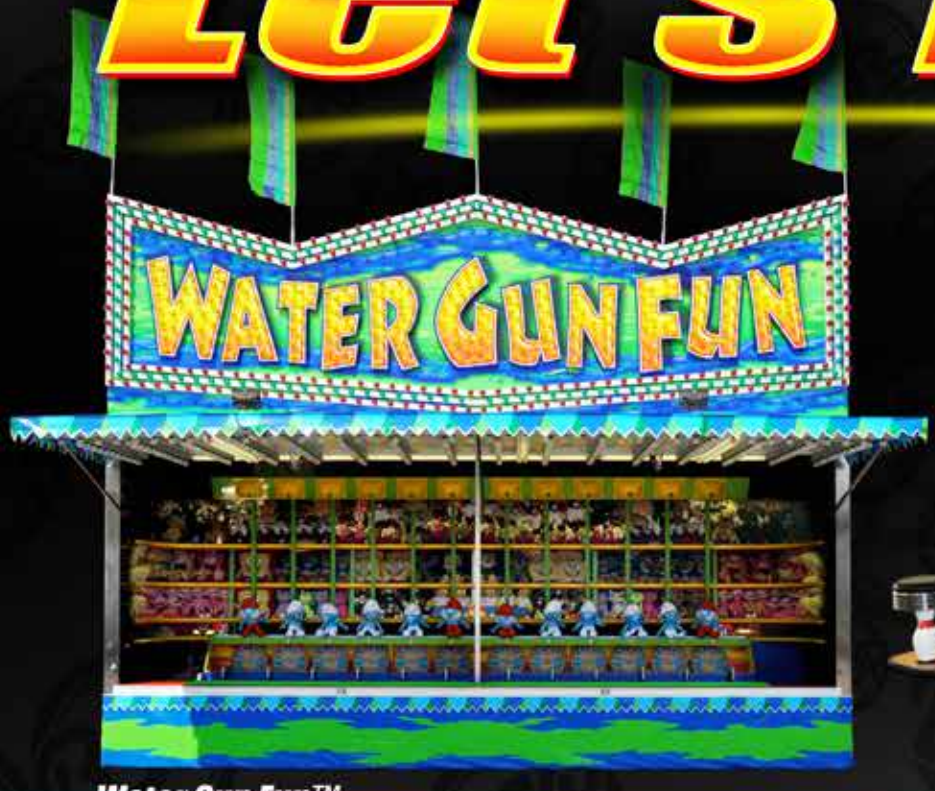


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# ASTM F24 2013 spring meeting set for New Orleans

WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — ASTM F24, the committee on amusement rides and attractions which produces global safety standards for the amusement industry, will be holding three days of meetings Feb. 14-16, 2013 at the Hyatt French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Approximately 50 separate meetings will be held, each one focusing on a specific safety element of the amusement industry. An estimated 250 people who are passionate about amusement ride safety are expected to attend. Meetings are open to both members and non-members of ASTM and registration is available at www.astm.org.

In addition to traditional sessions on issues like ride design, operations, and maintenance, some special areas of focus include nontraditional areas of growth, such as participatory attractions like zip lines, rock wall climbing, inflatables, Zorbs, and trampolines. A brand new zip line safety standard which has been approved will be reviewed in detail.

A number of sessions will again be held to assist global representatives with the adoption of ASTM F24 standards. Representatives of Central and South America as well as Asia have already confirmed participation. The F24 Canada-specific standard is being used as a model for other countries that have a desire to adopt F24 standards, but have specific internal requirements that must be added to the existing standards. The newly established task group focused on Latin American adoption of F24 will meet to review the model.

Jim Seay, chairman of ASTM F24 Committee and president of Premier Rides, commented, "Membership in the F24 committee has nearly doubled in the past two years with growth coming from around the globe. I am very appreciative so many people are planning on taking time out from their busy schedules to come to New Orleans and make significant contributions to the safety process."

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## ASTM International launches leadership program

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — To better promote the professional development opportunities resulting from involvement in standards development activities, ASTM International has launched a leadership program in 2013. This new Leadership Connection initiative offers educational resources that support the many skills acquired by engaging in ASTM technical committee activities.

The Leadership Connection aims to raise awareness regarding the wealth of opportunities available for hands-on leadership experience that can position individuals for career growth.

"ASTM membership offers one of the richest learning and professional development environments you'll find anywhere," said Katharine Morgan, vice president, Technical Committee Operations, ASTM International. "At ASTM, it's easy to find roles of added responsibility. Members who are committed to engage will find a clear and progressive path of leadership development."

For additional information on the Leadership Connection program and the various resources available, visit: www.astm.org/leadership.

# INTERNATIONAL

PARKS ATTRACTIONS RESORTS SUPPLIERS

## Reporter's Notebook

### Splash Bay moving ahead despite city regulations

AUSTRALIA — Although the city council of Fraser Coast, Queensland, Australia voted to approve a $AUD 2 million waterpark, the deputy mayor expressed concerns over the project being subject to 102 conditions that were imposed before approval was given. Detailed such as the exact number of feet each attraction must be from the property boundary, or the exact height of a sound barrier as well as stipulating the park must close by 5 p.m. each day, to such minute details as having backup cameras on waste collection vehicles servicing the park, left some people wondering why so many conditions were imposed for this particular project. "I can't think of another application that has been handled this way," Director Trevor McDonald said. Splash Bay's developers said they would meet all of the imposed guidelines.

### Yas Waterworld gives preview to Facebook fans

UAE — Yas Waterworld, Abu Dhabi, UAE, held a contest on its Facebook page and awarded 25 contestants and their friends a sneak peak at the waterpark three weeks before the official opening. The winners served as test pilots for the rides and were asked to upload photos and talk about the rides on their Facebook page. Yas Waterworld has 43 attractions including a ProSlide hydromagnetic water coaster with laser effects. According to the park, five of the new rides attractions include a first-of-their-kind feature. The park opened to the public on January 24.

*World's largest transportable wheel*

# Bussink Design sets new world record

GERMANY — Bussink Design has finalized the installation of the world's largest transportable Giant Observation Wheel.

Bussink Design is responsible for the design, engineering and construction of the wheel. The manufacturing was executed by Maurer German Wheels from Munich under an exclusive license in Europe.

The new, state-of-the-art Observation Wheel (R80XL SP), reached its highest point of approximately 264 feet just before Christmas. It was a wonderful Christmas gift to the city of Munich, where the special LED-lighting could be seen from all over the city.

The R80XL Giant Observation Wheel will be manufactured in two different versions. A stationary semi-transportable version, the R80XL SV, intended for locations where the R80XL can be installed as a more permanent or long term installation. The second model, the R80XL SP is the fully-transportable version that comes with its own compact base frame which supports the whole structure. This version is intended for operators that plan to move the R80XL around. Transportation of the complete R80XL SP takes approximately 60 specially adapted standard ISO containers.

For both versions two different cabin packages are offered: 54 eight-passenger cabins in different seating configurations (face-to-face, back-to-back, cocktail, dinner or VIP), or 27 16-passenger cabins, also available in the different configurations. All cabins are designed and manufactured by CWA, the well-established 'people mover' company from Switzerland.

Other partners working on the R80XL together with Bussink Design and Maurer German Wheels are Siemens Germany who provide the Drive and Control system and R&S Dynamics AG from Vaduz, Liechtenstein for the engineering. The design review in accordance with

▸ See BUSSINK, page 10

**Bussink Design has finalized the installation of the R80 XL, the world's largest transportable Giant Observation Wheel. With manufacturing executed by Maurer German Wheels, the first example of the 264-foot-tall Wheel was illuminated with 5,000 LED lights in Munich just before Christmas. The R80 XL will be offered in various cabin configurations. The R80XL SV US version will be manufactured under an exclusive license by Chance American Wheels, Wichita, Kansas, and ready for delivery by the beginning of 2014.**
COURTESY BUSSINK DESIGN

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# U.K. pier wins lottery funded grant

UNITED KINGDOM — The future of one of the U.K.'s best know Victorian seaside piers has been assured with the granting of GBP 11.4 million in funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The news of the support from the HLF was announced by the Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust (HPWRT), a development trust made up of members of the local community who wish to see Hastings Pier, which first opened in 1872, rescued and redeveloped after it was almost destroyed by fire in 2010.

The grant will provide the majority of the GBP13.9 million needed to deliver the rescue and restoration project as envisaged by the trust and speaking at the time of the announcement, HPWRT chief executive Simon Opie said: "This is a brilliant decision by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the future of the pier and the future of Hastings. The commitment and support of everyone involved has been crucial to this success and the trust is indebted to a great many people and organisations. We will continue to rely on this support and enthusiasm as the project moves to its next, exciting phase. We now need to put everything in place to enable us to start work on the pier in spring next year (2013) and we will be setting out our plans for this shortly. We very much look forward to having the pier reopened by the end of 2014."

The trust's plans include the rebuilding of the structure to provide a stable platform for future development, the creation of a new visitor centre, the development of the Western Pavilion building (the only building to survive the fire) as a signature eating and drinking venue and the creation of a programme of seasonal activities.

This latest news comes shortly after it was announced that the Government had confirmed that a compulsory purchase order of the pier from its Panamanian owners, Ravenclaw Investments, can go ahead, following the company's failure to meet a deadline to begin repairs to the pier.

***—Andrew Mellor***

**Above, Hastings Pier was devastated by fire in 2010. Below, The HLF grant funding will ensure Hastings Pier is brought back to its former glory.**
COURTESY HASTING PIER/WHITE ROCK TRUST

## BUSSINK

**Continued from page 9**

German building codes for transportable installations was successfully carried out and unconditionally approved by TÜV Nord from Essen, Germany. The final acceptance test will be carried out and conducted by TÜV Süd in Munich. Western European materials and suppliers from the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France and Liechtenstein were carefully selected for this project.

The total development for the R80XL took over 30 years of experience and fiveyears of intensive design and engineering works alone by a team of highly skilled and trained engineers. With this construction a new peerless standard has been developed without compromises in construction, safety and quality. Quality Control of the manufacturing and installation process was permanently supervised and monitored by BISSWISS AG from Switzerland, guaranteeing a product of the highest quality ever seen in our industry.

Customers for both the R80XL SV and the R80XL SP have already signed up for delivery in the first half of 2013. An additional two R80XL wheels are already in production at Maurer German Wheels for delivery in late 2013 and early 2014.

The R80XL SV US version will be manufactured under an exclusive license by Chance American Wheels based in Wichita, Kansas, and will be ready for delivery by the beginning of 2014.

# IE Park marks 20 years of success with mid-size bumper car range

ITALY — IE Park/Soli bumper cars will celebrate a major milestone in the company's history in 2013 when it marks the 20th anniversary of the introduction of the first mid-size bumper car to be introduced to the amusement and attractions industry.

The Hypnos bumper car was the first model in the mid-size range to be designed by IE Park/Soli bumper cars and made its debut in 1993, bringing yet another proposition to operators looking for new options in the marketplace. But crucially too, it was the ideal bumper car vehicle size for the FEC market which at that time was still in its infancy as a key sector of the amusement industry.

"The background to the introduction of the Hypnos mid-size vehicle was also safety related," explained IE Park/Soli bumper cars Sales Director Andrea Munari. "We recognized that there was a requirement for a vehicle aimed at older children who were too big for the junior cars but not big enough to go in adult cars on their own. It also provided operators with a vehicle that wasn't an adult model, that parents could ride in with their children, or that two children could ride together."

Having had the vision to introduce what has become a very important range in the marketplace, IE Park/Soli bumper cars received an particularly positive reaction to the product from the FEC sector, as well as from theme and amusement parks, as it provided an ideal alternative to both junior and adult vehicles. It also allowed operators to utilize a larger number of vehicles in the same area/track as a set of adult cars, a factor that helped the company gain much market share. Additionally, it provided yet another option, with the chance to operate a mixture of both junior and mid-size cars on the same track at the same time.

**IE Park/Soli bumper cars celebrates a major milestone in the company's history in 2013 when it marks the 20th anniversary of the introduction of the Hypnos, the first mid-size bumper car to be introduced to the amusement and attractions industry.**
COURTESY IE PARK

The original Hypnos model was updated in 2000 with the introduction of the Hypnos Omega, while further mid-size models have also been added to the range over the years. In 2003, the Charlie was added, followed in 2005 by the Sport 1 and in 2008 by the Sphera, all of which have proved popular with customers around the world, in particular in the Middle East where many indoor FEC and amusement park venues are to be found.

Each model in the mid-size range is available in a variety of colors and decorative themes, as well as with various optional extras, while a choice of floor pick up or overhead power supply is also offered.

"We have been very happy with the success of the mid-size range over the last 20 years," added Munari, "and I am sure we will enjoy similar success over the next 20 years as we continue to develop the mid-size range of bumper cars to give operators of all types of venue more and more choice."

# Goddard Group brings theater to Lotte World

SEOUL, Korea — Seoul-based Lotte World has announced completion of its newest attraction, an interactive theater show called Do You Speak Beluga?

Located in the Aqua Plaza section of the park, the experience will immerse guests in an animated undersea environment in which they'll be able to interact, one-on-one, with a digitally-created Beluga Whale.

The new project marks the second recent attraction resulting from a multi-project collaboration between Lotte World and Hollywood-based design firm the Goddard Group. The first, a family flat ride called Jumping Fish, debuted to an enthusiastic response last October.

"The 'Beluga' project comes at an exciting time of growth for Lotte World," said Taylor Jeffs, the Goddard Group's director of design. "More guests are coming to the park than ever before, so we've been actively working with the Lotte team to find fresh and exciting ways to increase capacity while bringing the guest experience into the 21st century."

W.G. Choi, the attraction's producer, agrees. "Do You Speak Beluga?' will not only be among the most technologically-advanced attractions in the park, but in all of Korea. We anticipate this to be a very popular experience with guests both young and old."

Korea-based Rayglyph is providing the show's technology and content.

The new attraction will replace a food court that has existed since the park's opening in 1989. However, to coincide with the attraction's launch, a new undersea-themed food court, located just steps away from both the Do You Speak Beluga? and Jumping Fish attractions, is also opening.

**Hollywood-based design firm the Goddard Group worked closely with Korea's Lotte World on a new interactive theater show called Do You Speak Beluga? The experience will immerse park guests in an animated undersea environment in which they'll be able to interact, one-on-one, with a digitally-created Beluga Whale.** COURTESY GODDARD GROUP

Minsung Kim, Lotte World manager of attraction development, adds, "With the new food court, our guests will be able to enjoy a modernized dining experience, as well as an environment filled with original characters and artwork created by animation legend Phil Mendez."

The openings of the new 'Beluga' attraction and food court will complete the year-long Aqua Plaza renovation project.

# Djurs Sommerland to open double launch coaster

**STORY:** *Andrew Mellor*
*amellor@amusementtoday.com*

DENMARK — The Danish amusement park Djurs Sommerland will debut Europe's only double launch coaster in 2013 when it opens its latest major attraction, The Jewel, in a few months time.

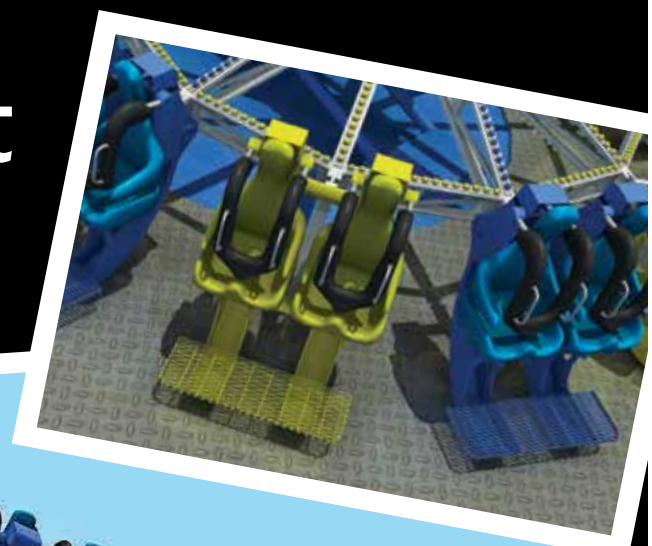
Manufactured by Intamin, who also built the park's Pirate coaster in 2008, this latest thriller will be the largest single investment ever made at Djurs Sommerland at a project cost of €9.4 million (U.S. $12.25 million). It will be incorporated into the park's Mexicoland which has been enlarged by 12,000-square meters (129,167-square feet) and will be surrounded by a large Maya-themed area with high quality jungle features, waterfalls, temples and statues.

The Jewel will see passengers riding in ATV style cars, the first of their kind in a European park, with two trains each with nine, two-seater vehicles. Guests will be launched forwards twice during the ride as they travel on a hair-raising journey through the Mexican jungle setting at speeds of up to 85 kph (53 mph). The track will be 1 km (0.62 miles) in length and will feature rapid swings from side to side with up to 80 degree banking, while in several places along the way the track will run just 1m (3.28 ft) above the ground, enhancing the sense of speed. Minimum height for riders will be 120 cm.

"A double launch coaster is a special kind of roller coaster where the guests are launched forwards at high speed not once but two times," said Djurs Sommerland CEO Henrik B. Nielsen. "This produces a truly original and fun ride at breakneck speeds and a high intensity experience from start to finish. The Jewel is not like any other roller coaster in Europe and, on account of its appeal, I'm sure we'll see many more tourists and set new visitor records in 2013."

**Above, In 2013, the Danish amusement park Djurs Sommerland will debut The Jewel, which will be Europe's only double launch coaster; above left, park CEO Henrik B. Nielsen tries one of the ATV style vehicles which will be used on the park's new coaster; while right, theming will play an important role in the ride experience.** COURTESY DJURS SOMMERLAND

# 50 years later the Trabant has gone Freestyle!



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# PARKS & ATTRACTIONS

RIDES ENTERTAINMENT REVENUE SUPPLIERS

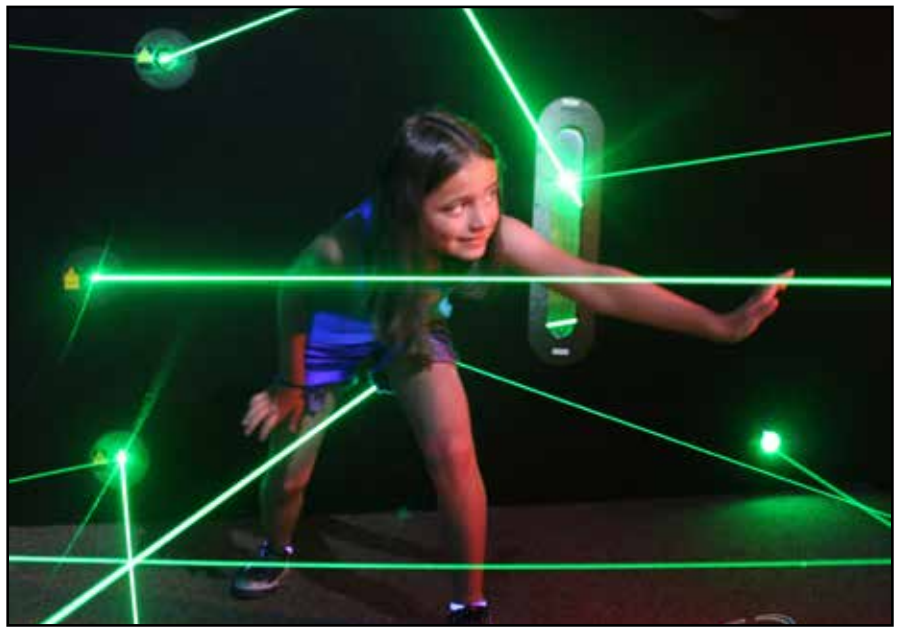
## Funovation Laser Maze coming to Quassy in 2013

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — Quassy Amusement Park will introduce the Laser Maze Challenge for the 2013 season. The new attraction will be located in Quassy's huge redemption arcade building in the heart of the lakeside facility.

The new attraction is being provided by Funovation of Longmont, Colo.

"The laser maze will be an exciting addition to our attractions lineup," Quassy President Eric Anderson said. "We spent a great deal of time researching this particular unit and it has been highly successful at existing locations."

Park officials were able to see the latest working edition of the laser maze during the IAAPA Expo in Orlando last November. "It will be a real hit with our guests," said George Frantzis II, a Quassy owner. "We had to opportunity to meet with the manufacturer at the IAAPA Expo and see all of the working components in the unit being demonstrated at the show. This is a real state-of-the-art family attraction."



**Quassy Amusement Park will introduce the Laser Maze Challenge for the 2013 season. Supplied by Colorado-based Funovation, the pay-as-you-play attraction integrates music, sound and lighting effects as each player navigates around the laser beams to beat the clock.** COURTESY QUASSY

The Quassy maze will incorporate a unique theme, now being devised by the park's marketing and art departments. The pay-as-you-play attraction integrates music, sound and lighting effects as each player navigates around the laser beams to beat the clock. If a beam of light is broken, that's OK, as players are simply penalized with time added to their individual score. The lower the score, the better. Each mission is finished when the player hits the "mission complete" button at the end of the maze.

"Not only is a great deal of fun for the players, but also spectators," Anderson added. "Large flatscreen TVs will broadcast the action inside the laser maze so those waiting outside can watch. There are all sorts of other exceptional components incorporated into the unit, such as a feature to download a video of your journey through the maze. Being a timed attraction, it will also generate a great deal of repeat play."

The laser maze will open on April 27 as Quassy kicks off its 105th season. The park is also doubling the size of its waterpark for 2013 with the addition of three new slides and an interactive kiddy splash pad. The waterpark and Quassy Beach open for their summer season on Saturday, May 25.

## Michigan Adventure to soar with Larson Flying Scooters

**STORY:** *Scott Rutherford*
*srutherford@amusementtoday.com*

MUSKEGON, Mich. — It seems that 2013 is rapidly becoming the 'Season of the Flying Scooter.' Perhaps it's a back-to-basics approach since several notable parks are queing up to be the next home of this classic flat ride.

Texas-based Larson International is the go-to company for those looking to add the Flying Scooter to their line-up. Larson recognized the potential of this wonderful ride, which first made headlines in the 1930s and 40s when Bisch-Rocco began rolling the units out to overwhelmingly positive reviews from both park owners and their guests.

The Flying Scooter's appearance can be deceptive; many guests will discount it as a kiddie attraction. But those in the know recognize this one as a fully interactive challenge. "I believe the popularity of the Flying Scooters is due to the simple, interactive flying experience. No two ride's are ever the same," said Larson's Jeff Novotny. "When flying you can twist the vehicle, left and right or fly it much like the action of waterskiing, diving in and out. The Flying Scooters is simply a fun ride which appeals to almost all age groups".

As previously announced, Six Flags The Great Escape and Knott's Berry Farm are both installing Larson Flying Scooters in 2013 while Michigan's Adventure is the

▸ See MICHIGAN, page 14

**Larson International is supplying three Flying Scooters attractions for the 2013 season. Along with the previously-announced rides opening this spring at Six Flags The Great Escape and Knott's Berry Farm, a third unit will take flight at Michigan's Adventure as the Lakeside Flyers. Pictured here are is the Flying Scooter Larson built for West Virgina's Camden Park in 2006.** AT FILE

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# Timber Mountain Log Ride undergoing major renovation

## *Garner Holt to assist park in revitalization of Knott's ride*

BUENA PARK, Calif. — One of the oldest log flume attractions in the country – The Timber Mountain Log Ride at Knott's Berry Farm – is undergoing of a multi-million dollar refurbishment and restoration project that began upon the ride's cloing on Jan. 6. The classic attraction, which was Arrow Development's 13th log flume installation, opened at Knott's Berry Farm in 1969. It remains one of the most elaborately themed log flumes in the U.S.

The $3.5 million attraction was originally funded entirely by its designer Bud Hurlbut who had previously designed Knott's Berry Farm's classic Calico Mine Ride. Hurlbut, a pioneer in the theme park attraction industry, wanted his flume ride to be a completely immersive experience. The Calico Log Ride, as it was originally named, takes guests through an 85-foot-high by 330-foot-long mountain range themed to a 19th-century lumber camp. The ride, housed in an eight-story building, includes 24,000 gallons of water that circulates free floating logs past a variety of mechanical figures and taxidermied animals culminating in a 42-foot splashdown finale.

**The Timber Mountain Log Ride at Knott's Berry Farm is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar refurbishment and restoration project that will take five months to complete. Garner Holt Productions, world's largest designer anthe d manufacturer of animatronics, will ssist in the revitalization project. the attractions was Arrow Development's 13th log flume installation,, which opened at Knott's Berry Farm in 1969.** COURTESY KNOTT'S

The much-anticipated attraction opened on July 11, 1969 with screen legend John Wayne taking the inaugural ride. The Knott's Timber Mountain Log Ride remains the most popular ride in the park, surpassing all of Knott's other attractions in ridership. To date, the historic attraction has given more then 98.9 million rides.

"The Timber Mountain Log Ride not only embodies the spirit of Knott's Berry Farm, but it also set the bar for all themed attractions that came after," said Raffi Kaprelyan, Knott's general manager who worked for Bud Hurlbut from 1979-1983. "Bud Hurlbut made numerous contributions to Knott's Berry Farm, but I think that the Timber Mountain Log Ride remains his crowning achievement."

Garner Holt Productions of San Bernardino, Calif. will assist in the revitalization project that is expected to take five months. Garner Holt is the world's largest designer and manufacturer of animatronics for theme parks, museums, dining and retail locations and has built nearly 3,000 animatronic figures and hundreds of animated props and show action systems. Garner Holt will work with the Knott's team to upgrade all the ride figures and sets as well as add new scenes and characters to enhance the ride experience while still maintaining the original theming and storyline of the attraction.

The Timber Mountain Log Ride is scheduled to reopen on Memorial Day, May 27, 2013.

## ▶WATERPARKS

Continued from page 23

latest park to announce that the ride is headed their way.

Sporting the appropirate name of Lakeside Gliders, the park's newest attraction is slated to take to the skies this spring. "Lakeside Gliders will be a great addition for families to enjoy together," said Camille Jourden-Mark, vice president and general manager of Michigan's Adventure. "We wanted a ride that children could enjoy with their parents and we loved the interactive nature of the ride."

The Lakeside Gliders are expected to open with the park on May 22, 2013.

Novotny also confirmed that yet another Flying Scooter is being produced for Wildlife World Zoo in Phoenix for the 2014 season.

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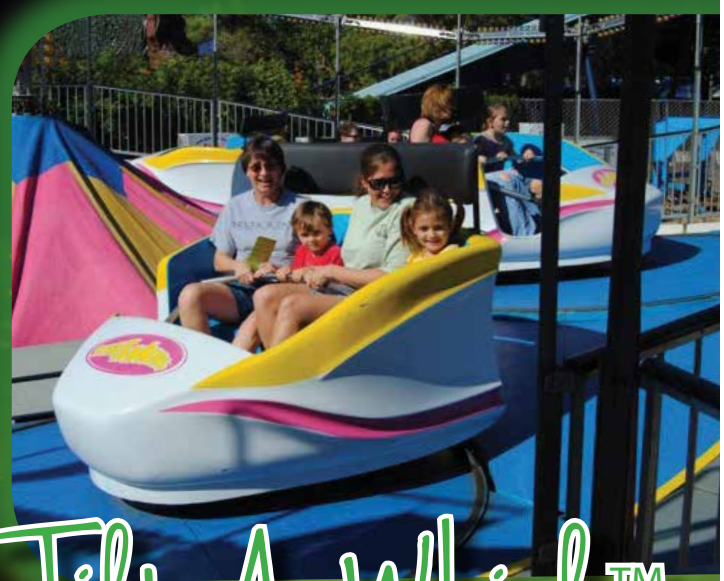


Tilt-A-Whirl™

*Walt Disney World's New Fantasyland*

# Magic Kingdom's biggest expansion wows guests

**STORY:** *Scott Rutherford*
*srutherford@amusementtoday.com*

ORLANDO, Fla. — Walt Disney made it clear that his parks would never be completed; they will continual to grow and evolve as time progresses. A perfect illustration of this philosophy is New Fantasyland, the largest expansion in the entire 42-year history of Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom.

Following five years of development and construction, Disney Imagineers finally took the wraps off major components of the massive endeavor that enlarged the Fantasyland section from its original 10 acres to an impressive 21.

"Walt Disney once promised that Disneyland, and by extension all of our parks, would never be complete as long as there is imagination left in the world," said Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs. "At the same time, he was charging all of us at Disney parks to stay true to our legacy, to continue creating experiences that bring our stories and characters to life, and helping friends and families make memories that last a lifetime. I think it's clear that all the work and attention to detail that has gone into New Fantasyland proves there is plenty of imagination left in the world."

**Gaston's Tavern, a rustic French lodge, is a casual restaurant that also offers non-alcoholic beverage and food. The large Gaston statue and fountain out front has become a popular photo spot.**

**New Fantasyland, the largest expansion in the entire 42-year history of Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom, is drawing vistors to the Florida themer in record numbers this winter. The new section, which expands the original areas 10 acres to 21, offfers a number of new attractions that bring to life some of Disney's most beloved fairytale stories and characters.**

ALL PHOTOS: AT/SCOTT RUTHERFORD

New Fantasyland is comprised of the Enchanted Forest and Storybook Circus areas. Walt Disney Imagineers brought to life beloved Disney stories and magical places, putting guests in the middle of Disney classics and new favorites. While there is still major activity going on behind a construction wall (more on that later), the new attractions now open in New Fantasyland include:

• **Under the Sea – Journey of the Little Mermaid**. Utilizing the Omnimover transportation system employed at the Haunted Mansion and other Disney attractions, guests are seated in clamshells that move both below and above the waves where Ariel and other characters from the *The Little Mermaid* film are brought to life. Featuring delightful animatronics, theatrical lighting and music, this is a darkride that only Disney could do. The ride's interactive queue beneath Prince Eric's Castle keeps guests entertained during the wait while after the ride experience guests can encounter the actual princess herself in Ariel's Grotto where they can pose for photos.

• **Enchanted Tales with Belle**. A meet-and-greet like no other, the adventure begins in the workshop within Maurice's cottage where his enchanted mirror (a truly fascinating effect) becomes the door to a new brand of storytelling experience. Utilizing various interactive techniques including costumes and props, guests are transported to Beast's castle where they meet Belle, Madame Wardrobe and Lumiere and share in a live re-telling of the beloved story, "Beauty and the Beast." Without question, Lumiere, the talking candelabrum, is one of the most advanced next-gen animatrontics ever created.

• **Be Our Guest**

▸ See DISNEY, page 17

**Under the Sea – Journey of the Little Mermaid is a new Disney dark ride that takes guests seated in clamshells both below and above the waves where Ariel and other characters from the The Little Mermaid film entertain them with animatronics, theatrical lighting and music.**

# DISNEY

Continued from page 16

**Restaurant.** Located within Beast's Castle, this is easily the most elegant dining option available in the Magic Kingdom as well as the first in its history to offer alcohol with the meal. "Everything is fresh, made to order, and for lunch we are hoping for the bustling kind of energy like the movie scene (from 'Beauty and the Beast') in the dining room," said Lenny DeGeorge, Walt Disney World executive chef.

Guests have the option of dining in the Rose Gallery, the castle's ominous West Wing or the elegant ballroom where outside 18-foot-tall windows, snow falls from a darkened sky. The venue features "great food fast" lunch service by day and full-service table dining at night where diners are encouraged to make reservations and dress for the occasion. Inspired, of course, by Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" the cuisine is prepared and served with a decidedly French flare.

The decision to finally offer alcohol to guests at the Magic Kingdom, at first, raised a few eyebrows but in the grand scheme it actually makes sense. "As part of the overall theming, we wanted to offer wine that enhances the guest experience and complements the French-inspired cuisine," said Stuart McGuire, Walt Disney World beverage director. "The wines focus primarily on France's famous wine-growing regions, including Champagne, Alsace, Loire, Rhone, Burgundy and Bordeaux.

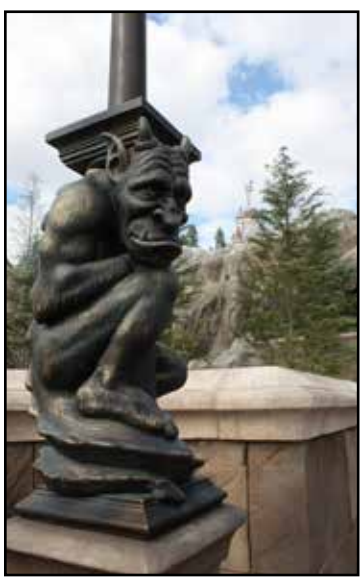
**Enchanted Tales with Belle is a new brand of storytelling that utilizes various interactive techniques including costumes and props to transport guests to Beast's Castle where they meet Belle, Madame Wardrobe and Lumiere and share in a live re-telling of the beloved story, "Beauty and the Beast."**

**Storybook Circus dominates a corner of New Fantasyland and includes two Dumbo, the Flying Elephant rides, Barnstormer family roller coaster and other sideshow-themed activities.**

"We'll also offer the leading French beer, Kronenbourg 1664," said McGuire. "And, staying in the general region, we'll also offer Belgian beers."

•**Gaston's Tavern.** This rustic French lodge is a casual restaurant that also offers LeFou's Brew, a non-alcoholic beverage named for Gaston's sidekick. The large Gaston statue and fountain out front has become a popular photo spot.

•**Storybook Circus** Dominating a corner of New Fantasyland is a double dose of Dumbo, the Flying Elephant. Two Dumbo rides from Zamperla – one going clockwise and other counterclockwise – allow guests to spin above Storybook Circus in pachyderm-shaped vehicles they maneuver themselves. The two Dumbos are connected to an indoor 'Big Top' where circus-themed activities occupy waiting guests. Another highlight of this area is the Barnstormer, a Vekoma junior steel coaster. Along with an outdoor waterplay area and new retail location, Disney characters as aspiring circus stars are on hand to meet their adoring fans in Pete's Silly Sideshow. Minnie Mouse, Daisy Duck, Goofy and Donald Duck are decked out in their big top finest to await their big break – and pose for photos with Magic Kingdom visitors.



**The new Be Our Guest Restaurant, located within Beast's Castle, is the most elegant dining option available in the Magic Kingdom as well as the first in its history to offer alcohol with the meal. Guests have the option of dining in the Rose Gallery, the castle's ominous West Wing The venue features lunch service by day and full-service table dining at night.**

**The Future of Fantasy**

There's even more in store as the expansion of New Fantasyland continues. When asked why the project is opening in phases, Chris Beatty, creative director of New Fantasyland, Walt Disney Imagineering, said: "We talked about how it would make a grand reveal at the end if we opened it all at once but what we really wanted to focus on are our guests. Since attractions like Be our Guest or Under the Sea — Journey of the Little Mermaid were ready, we decided to open in phases so that guests could get in there and have those amazing adventures. And now, we have something to look forward to in 2014 when the new mine train opens. It turned about to be a good way to build excitement."

•**Princess Fairytale Hall**. Opening later this year, this area will be the new home for Disney princesses to meet their loyal subjects in the Magic Kingdom. To open in the Castle Courtyard in the center of Fantasyland, the regal space will provide the perfect setting for meeting Cinderella, Aurora, Tiana and the other Disney princesses.

•**The Seven Dwarfs Mine Train.** Steadily taking shape behind the aforementioned construction wall, the new mine train coaster will be the centerpiece of New Fantasyland when it opens in spring 2014. It will take guests on a thrilling ride into the mine "where a million diamonds shine." The family-style coaster, with hardware supplied by Vekoma, will feature a first-of-its-kind ride system where passenger vehicles will swing back and forth as the trains negotiate the track's twist and turns.

Commenting on the project, Tom Staggs is obviously pleased with result of the work that went into creating it. "I feel that Walt would've been extremely proud of the thousands of cast members and Imagineers whose tireless efforts made New Fantasyland a reality," he said. "This is a spectacular addition to the Magic Kingdom that delivers on Walt's promise. We're thrilled to take guests beyond the walls of Cinderella Castle to discover new worlds featuring iconic Disney characters and stories in ways that are more imaginative, more interactive than ever before. It's really about immersing people in a number of stories, characters and music that they love."

*AT* will continue to follow the story in the coming months as as the next phases of New Fantasyland are revealed.

*Commercial, political cross-currents at play in new film*

# ‘Zipper’ sheds nostalgic light on Coney Island’s shifting fortunes

**REVIEW:** *Dean Lamanna*
*Special to Amusement Today*

As Coney Island recovers from Superstorm Sandy’s surging tide, a new documentary reveals that years of negotiations between private and political entities vying to revamp New York’s seaside landmark have been decidedly untidy.

The film is called *Zipper* (www.zipperfilm.com) in tribute to the classic Chance Manufacturing Company thrill ride, depicted here as both a central “character” and an emblem of transition in Coney Island. From the Zipper crew’s fiendish pre-ride car-spinning technique to the old-fashioned fun pushed by salty attraction owners, it beautifully captures the edgy, cathartic essence of the urban amusement park experience.

But there’s more than artfully photographed and edited footage of the Zipper, Cyclone, Deno’s Wonder Wheel and other beloved icons: a behind-the-screams drama unfolds as

**Filmed over four years beginning in 2006, the documentary *Zipper* — using the classic Chance Manufacturing carnival ride as a dynamic and emotional focal point — tells the story of a Coney Island in transition.**
COURTESY MYRTLE & OLIVE PRODUCTIONS

a real estate mogul and the City of New York battle for Coney Island’s very soul. The casualties include not only Astroland but the Zipper and other independently operated amusements as parcels are bought up by a condo-and-mall-minded developer sifting for profits along Brooklyn’s dilapidated beachfront.

Meanwhile, local politicians who have their own designs on Coney Island further raise the suspicion and ire of its residents, one of whom emotionally proclaims at a planning board meeting: “The legacy of Coney Island belongs to everyone….”

A side visit to Chance Manufacturing’s factory in Wichita, Kansas, affords an explanatory look at the unique mechanics and appeal of the title contraption, whose gyrations rival those of the competing political and private interests back in Brooklyn. (The documentary is dedicated to company founder Harold Chance, who died in 2010 not long after he was interviewed for it.)

Throughout the 77-minute film, the Zipper — the most dynamic trailer-mounted cage ride ever created and a high-profile favorite on the carnival circuit for more than four decades — remains symbolic of the unfettered, anarchic spirit of Coney Island. Its padded, womblike cars whirl passengers into a squealing frenzy as a soundtrack sporting English and Spanish versions of Blue Oyster Cult’s 1976 rock classic “(Don’t Fear) The Reaper” underscores the end-of-innocence theme.

Like those of the ride itself, the various moving parts of *Zipper* work together exceptionally well — reaching a conclusion that, while bittersweet, suggests not so much the death of an era as a more determined rebirth. One that, despite a temporary setback just dealt by Mother Nature, is well underway in Coney Island.

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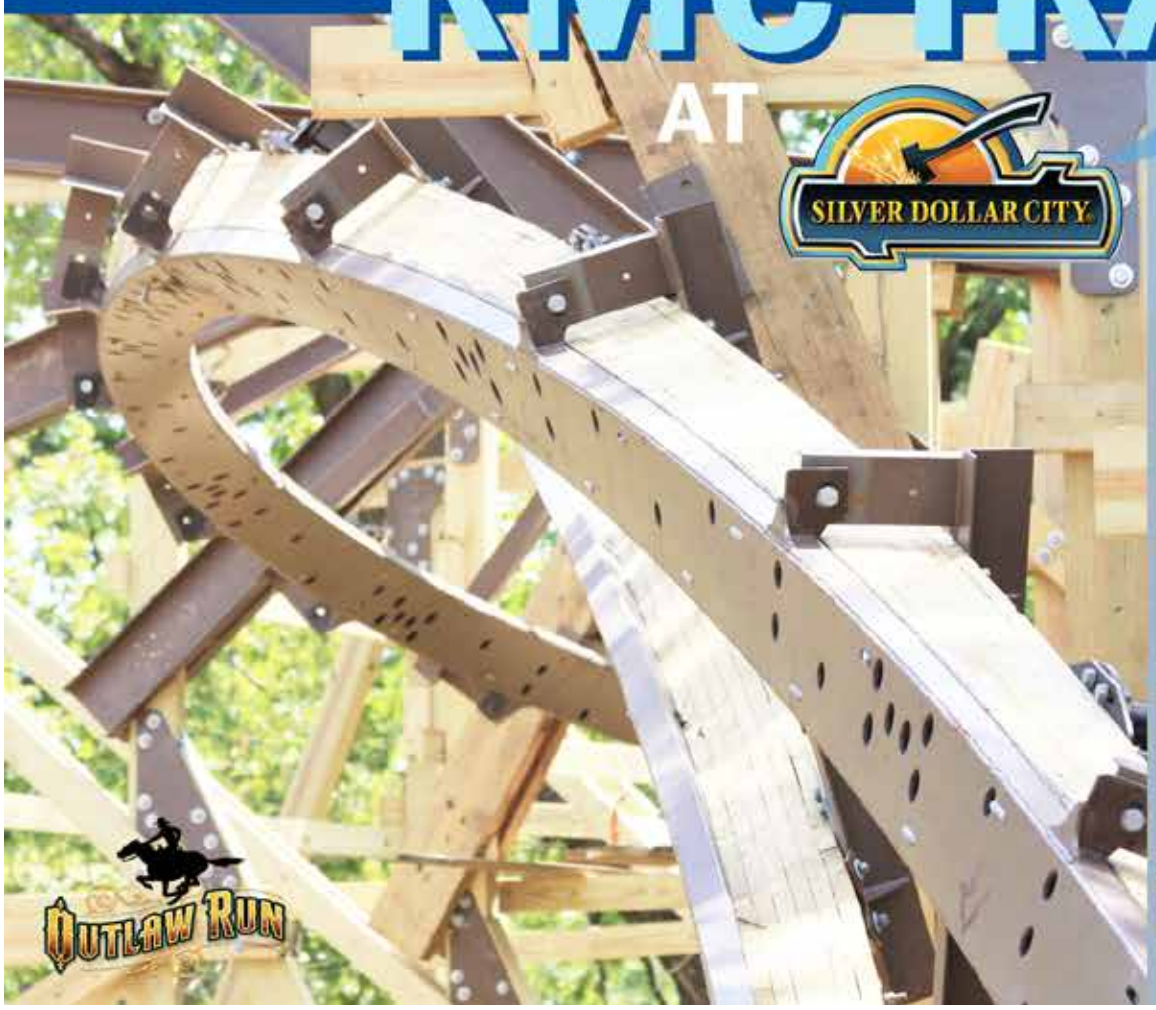


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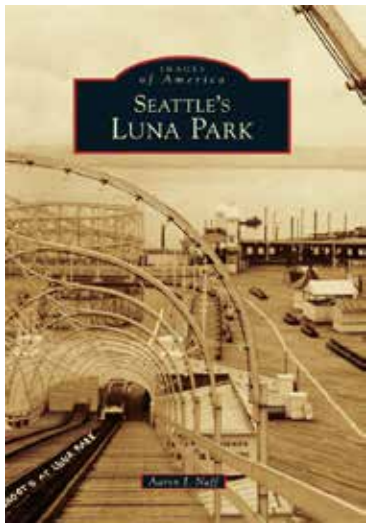
PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMUSEMENT TODAY

# Arcadia Book chronicles brief history of Seattle's Luna Park

**STORY:** *Jeffrey L. Seifert*
*jseifert@amusementtoday.com*

SEATTLE, Wash. — Near the close of the 19th century, Americans were becoming more prosperous, and modern machinery made them less dependant on constant work, freeing up time for recreation activities. This modern machinery that made the country industrious was also used for the purpose of pleasure in the form of mechanical rides at amusement parks. Following the success of New York's Coney Island, it didn't take long for copycat ventures to sprout up throughout the entire country, creating areas known as an amusement park.



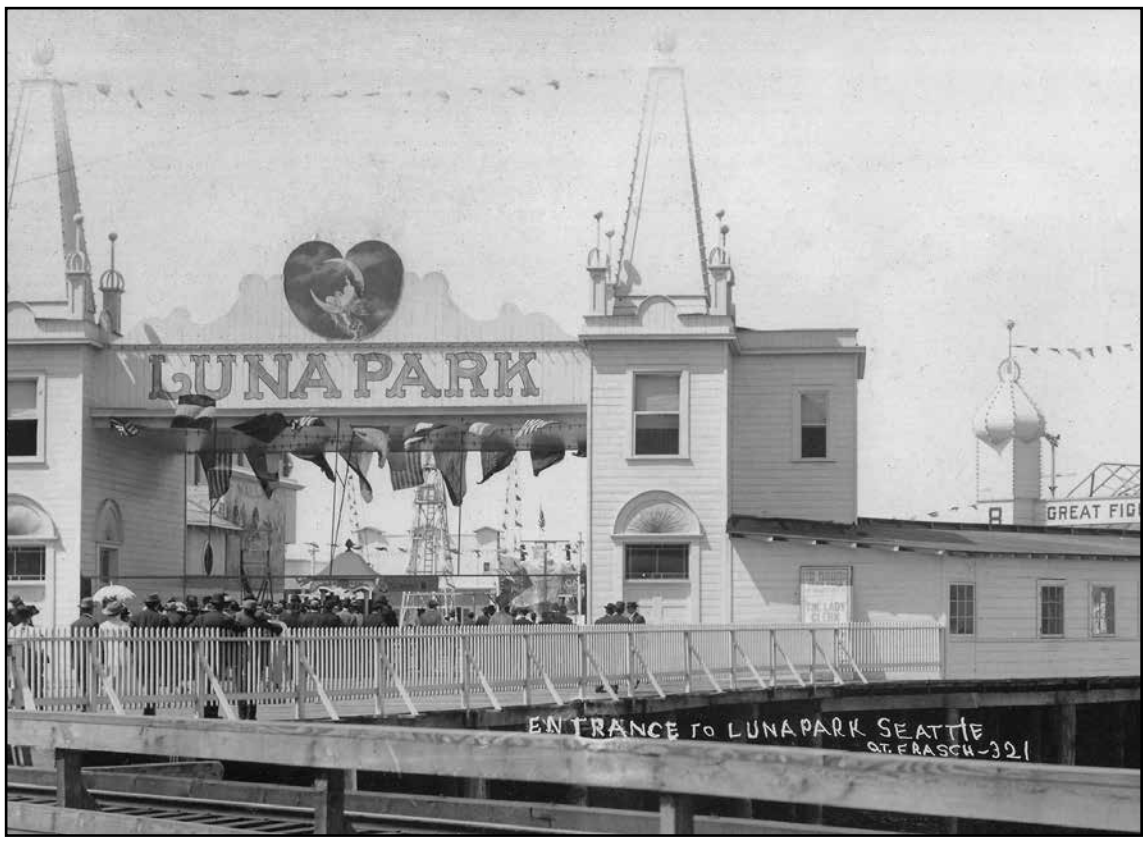

One such place was Seattle's Luna Park, the subject of an Arcadia Images of America book, part of an immense series that commemorates a town, region, or attraction with vintage photographs captioned to tell a story. This book, written by Aaron J. Naff, is divided into seven chapters. Chapter one tells the story of the park's humble beginnings as a bathing beach and chapter seven tells what became of the area and its rides following the park's demise just seven years later. The remaining chapters focus on a major attraction or aspect of the park, with chapter three providing a fascinating look at carousel builder and parks rides manager Charles I.D. Looff.

As with many historical amusement parks, the area that would become Luna Park was first popular as a bathing beach. With more opportunity for recreation, Americans discovered that swimming was a popular pastime and the shallow Alki Beach in West Seattle was an ideal summer destination. At the north end of the beach the Seattle Park Company constructed an immense pier in 1906 and on it Luna Park, Seattle's version of Coney Island. Charles I.D. Looff, the famous carousel carver from Rhode Island, had just completed a carousel for a park in San Francisco, but following the 1906 earthquake, that carousel needed a new home. Looff was hired by the Seattle Park Company to manage the park and he installed the carousel, along with a number of other attractions. The Seattle Park Company built and managed a natatorium, dance hall, barroom and the Luna Park Café — a 600-seat restaurant.

At 7 p.m. on June 27, 1907, Luna Park opened its gates and thousands arrived to find a mechanized wonderland bathed in modern electric lights. A 10 cents admission fee was charged at the front gate giving guests access to the midway, natatorium, café and exhibits. The rides and concessions were an additional charge. The park, billed as the largest boardwalk on the Pacific Coast, was outfitted with its own turbine generator to power the rides and more than 11,000 incandescent light bulbs.

That grand opening also marked the inaugural trip of the Seattle Electric Company's Luna Park Line that ran from downtown Seattle to Luna Park's entrance. Ferry service, via the City of Seattle also brought guests from Seattle to the pier.

Seattle's Luna Park, called "the Nation's Greatest Playground on Pacific Coast, offered a sprawling midway and attractions typical of the parks of the era. In addition to the magnificent four-row menagerie carousel, the park was home to a Traver circle swing, Shoot the Chute ride, side-friction figure eight roller coaster — likely designed by Arthur Looff, and a scenic boat ride called the Canals of Venice. Non-ride attractions included an Electric Theater — an early form of movie theater, dance hall, numerous band pavilions, theaters with popular forms of entertainment including vaudeville and animal acts; and the natatorium where three pools (two saltwater and one freshwater), could hold up to 1,000 bathers in a climate-controlled environment.



Top: the park entrance was modeled after Coney's and other Luna Parks of the era. Above: seen here are the Shoot the Chute, Circle Swing and Canals of Venice rides. Left: This spectacular 1906 Looff carousel is still in operation today.

COURTESY IMAGES OF AMERICA SEATTLE'S LUNA PARK/AARON J. NUFF

While Luna Park enjoyed success in its early years, the novelty soon wore off and public opinion was starting to change. In 1910 Seattle granted women the right to vote, and vice was a significant issue to the new female voters. A scathing newspaper article depicted Luna Park as a place for underage drinking, with drunken boys and girls able to buy beer all night long and even on Sundays. Although the bar in the café was closed in accordance with

**See BOOK, page 21**

# EnterTRAINment Junction opening Coney exhibit in 2013

WEST CHESTER, Ohio — The award-winning EnterTRAINment Junction has announced that it is building a one-of-a-kind, real-working replica of Cincinnati's beloved Coney Island Amusement Park, which has a remarkable 127-year-old history and has created an exceptional legacy in the hearts and minds of generations of visitors.

The large Coney Island exhibit, covering more than one thousand square feet, features working rides from Coney Island's glimmering past, such as PTC's magnificent Shooting Star wooden roller coaster, the Lost River, the Ferris Wheel, Flying Rockets, Tumblebug and Carousel (all of which are already complete).

All rides and attractions are being made from scratch by hand, based on historic photos and dimensions, with most items created in a 1/24th scale. The Shooting Star alone is 40-feet long and four-feet tall while the Ferris Wheel is also nearly four feet tall.

"This hand-built recreation of Coney Island is one of the biggest and most challenging projects we have undertaken," said Don Oeters, EnterTRAINment Junction's president and owner. "Historic Coney Island is a seamless fit for us because of our skill in creating scaled and authentic historic design throughout our model train display, which is the largest indoor model train display in the world."

Due to space limitations, minimal creative license has been taken in the Coney Island layout, but the millions of visitors who have enjoyed Coney Island over the years will instantly recognize the park's treasured attractions of the past. The Coney Island replica recreates the park mainly as it was in 1965. The replica will recreate the best-of-the-best of Coney Island's memorable features, including the front gate entrance way, Lake Como, Moonlite Gardens, tree-lined Coney mall, picnic areas, Skeeball Arcade, basketball games and the Ohio River Gate with its steamboat landing.

Additional rides include the Wild Mouse family coaster, Train Ride, Haunted House, Turnpike, Skyride, and a rides' building with Dodgems, the Whip and Cuddle Up. There will also be a working trolley line with running trolleys bustling along Kellogg Avenue and stopping at Coney's front gate. The trolleys ran to Coney until 1925.

Nearly a dozen interactive buttons throughout the exhibit will allow visitors to personally engage the ride attractions to make the rides operate, lights blink and music play. "This project is truly amazing in both its scope and attention to detail.

"Seeing the park's iconic rides actually operating in miniature is just wonderful," said Vic Nolting, president of Coney Island.

The Coney Island exhibit, with a planned official opening in the spring of 2013, is located on the second-level overlook of EnterTRAINment Junction. Visitors can currently view the construction of the new exhibit, including several rides already in-place, such as the Shooting Star, Ferris Wheel, Tumblebug, Carousel and the Flying Rockets.

The new Coney Island exhibit will be at no additional cost to the public. For more information, go to www.entertrainmentjunction.com

**BOOK** Continued from page 20

Seattle's Sunday laws, the paper alleged that portable saloons sold liquor on Sunday. The dance hall was also denounced as luring young people into unsavory behavior. What was once advertised as the "best-stocked bar on the Bay" became the target of anti-saloon campaigns, and was frequently raided under the new city administration.

Disagreements between Looff and the Seattle Park Company led to lawsuits. In the original agreement Looff managed the main gate and paid the Seattle Park Company a percentage. But the Seattle Park Company opened a separate entrance for the natatorium at a reduced admission and let those visitors into the park bypassing the main gate and without any compensation for Looff. Charles I.D. Looff eventually decided to cut his losses. He sold his Luna Park Amusement Company and left Seattle. By that time he had already moved his carousel business from Rhode Island to a new ride factory in Long Beach, California. The park, with the exception of the Natatorium and Dance Hall closed in 1913.

Luna Park's amusements were dissembled in 1914. Presumably some of the attractions were relocated to other Looff-operated parks in California. The carousel was moved to San Francisco's Playland at the Beach where it operated for more than 60 years.

Although little remains of Luna Park, its memories persist. On the original site, a synopsis of the park's history is etched in concrete. A nearby neighborhood is named Luna Park, and there is even a Luna Park Café although it is not the original café from the park. The area is now a public park, and all that remains of the pier are a few pilings that can be spotted at low tide.

Playland at the Beach closed in 1972 and the 1906 Looff carousel was fortunately sold, in its entirety, to a private collector. It was eventually purchased by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, was fully restored, and currently operates at the Children's Creativity Museum in San Francisco.

Despite its brief existence, Luna Park has become a local legend and author Aaron J. Nuff was able to obtain an extraordinary number of images from area museums, newspapers, university libraries, municipal archives and private collectors — enough to fill the 126 page book. It offers a remarkable look at one of the greatest, albeit short-lived amusement piers of the early 20th century.

Images of America Seattle's Luna Park retails for $21.99 and is available at local bookstores, online retailers or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com, (888) 313-2665.

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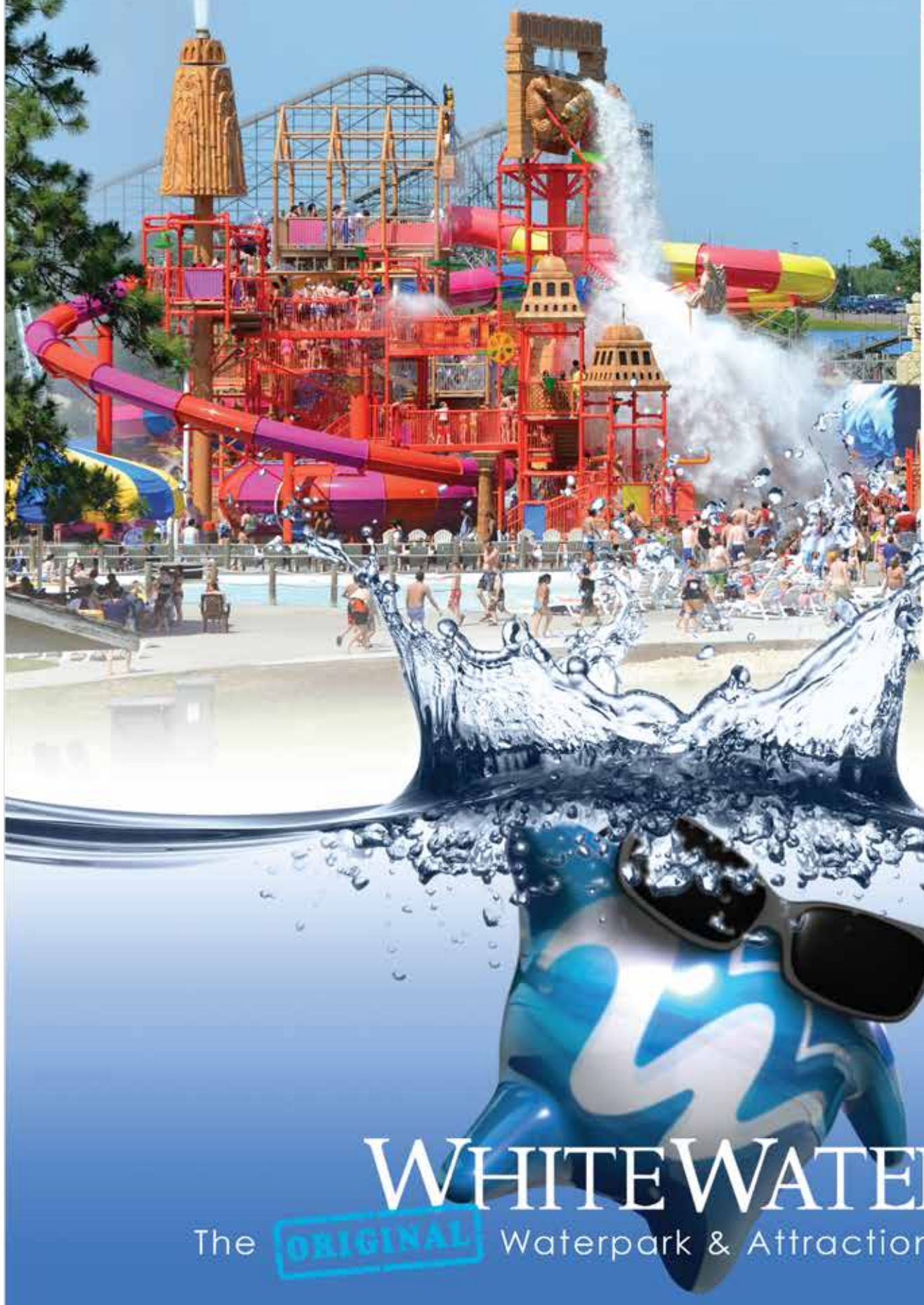

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# WATERPARKS & RESORTS

INDOOR FACILITIES AQUATIC CENTERS RECREATION SUPPLIERS

## Polin supplies rides to new Thailand waterpark; debuts new slide

**STORY:** *Andrew Mellor*
*amellor@amusementtoday.com*

Polin Waterslides and Pool Systems, has announced that the Santorini Water Fantasy waterpark will open in the spring as a new aquatics addition to the Santorini Park, an amusement park adjacent to the Cha-Am Premium Outlet Mall in the southern part of the Phetchaburi Province in central Thailand.

The waterpark will sit on approximately four acres and will represent an investment of bt 100 million (U.S. $3.25 million). A King Cobra slide will be among several rides supplied by Turkey-based Polin to the new facility, while the company is also installing three other 'heart-thumping' attractions, namely a Looping Rocket, a Space Shuttle and a Windigo. Other rides being installed by Polin include a Freefall, Aquatube, Rafting Slide, Black Hole, kids Freefall, Space Hole, kids Octopus slide, mini Pirate slide, Turtle slide, Giraffe Shower, Mushroom, Aquatower Type 600 and a baby Octopus slide.

In other Polin news, the company has introduced a new high-capacity, family orientated waterslide in the shape of the Surf Safari.

The latest attraction features a 40 degree sloped entrance and a unique, parabolic design that creates an illusion that adds further to the overall experience. As a result, riders young and old will be provided with a totally new riding experience which according to Polin has never before been seen in a family-styled waterslide.

Surf Safari sees four-person rafts travelling through twists and turns with unex-

▸ See POLIN, page 24

Santorini Water Fantasy will cover an area of four acres adjacent to the existing Santorini Park in central Thailand. The new park will open this spring.
COURTESY POLIN

## Lo-Q extends relationship with Palace Entertainment parks

*Lo-Q inks 3-year deal with Raging Waters, Noah's Ark begins using accesso*

ORLANDO, Fla. — In the first set of announcements since Lo-Q plc acquired accesso in December, the companies have released that two major Palace Entertainment waterparks will leverage the group's combined technology solutions in 2013. Raging Waters, California's largest waterpark, is adding Q-band, while Noah's Ark, one of the largest waterparks in the U.S., has begun utilizing accesso Passport's online ticketing.

Raging Waters located in San Dimas, California is adding Q-band, Lo-Q's virtual queuing wristband for waterparks. Branded as the H2Go Pass at Palace Entertainment's waterpark locations, Lo-Q's virtual queuing system will be installed at nine of the Raging Waters top slides in time for the 2013 summer travel season.

Q-band is an innovative waterproof RFID wristband that allows guests to queue virtually for their favorite slides without actually having to stand in line, allowing them to make the most of their waterpark visit. Q-band users are notified when it's their turn and head straight to the front of the line using a separate entrance and avoid the long wait.

The Raging Waters deal follows last year's successful launch of Lo-Q's Q-band product at Splish Splash, another Palace Entertainment-owned waterpark located on Long Island.

One of Palace's newest locations, Noah's Ark, Wisconsin Dells, Wisc., has added accesso Passport's eCommerce platform bringing the total number of Palace Entertainment Parks now served by accesso to eighteen. The online ticketing solution will allow the waterpark to offer a comprehensive online shopping experience that includes advance sales of admission tickets, parking, meal vouchers, tours, merchandise, cabanas, birthday parties and more. It also delivers increased guest conversion and commitment pre-arrival by integrating within a venue's current website and keeping guests engaged throughout their browsing process.

"The proven success of the Q-band product at Splish Splash waterpark in New York and the Accesso eCommerce platform across our theme park and waterpark portfolio has made these obvious additions for both Raging Waters San Dimas and Noah's Ark," said Fernando Eiroa, president and CEO, Palace Entertainment. "We look forward to implementing these technology solutions for the 2013 season to help increase our overall guest satisfaction levels."

"These agreements reinforce the benefits our combined organization offers," said Steve Brown, who now serves as president and COO of the company's North America business. "Together we leverage the talent of both teams and our collective technological, mobile and operational expertise, offering the industry a one-stop shop to find the next generation solutions they need to meet the rapidly changing expectations of their guests."

**Polin will supply a variety of attractions for all ages to the new Santorini Water Fantasy park in central Thailand.**
COURTESY POLIN

## POLIN

**Continued from page 23**

pected changes in momentum before riders splash into pool or run-out exits. Primary features or the attraction include its high capacity, unique geometrical shape, streamlined design, optional waterfall feature, a longer ride path, Magic Shine finish, a variety of theming options and half open, half closed and fully closed tunnel versions.

## Record breaking waterslide on tap for cruise ship

FRANCE — As more and more cruise lines add waterparks and slides to their floating cities it was only a matter of time before a cruise line touted a record-breaker.

MSC Cruises announced that the MSC Preziosa currently under construction at the STX shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France will feature an elaborate waterpark and the longest slide ever built on a cruise ship. The Doremi Castle Aqua Park will include a play area with water pistols, splash zones, double and single waterslides and a tipping bucket, but the highlight will be Vertigo, a 42-foot-high, 394-foot-long waterslide that will feature clear tubing bands for a stroboscopic effect and a 30-foot stretch of transparent tubing cantilevered off the side of the ship. No slide supplier has been announced by the cruise line.

The MSC Preziosa will make its maiden voyage in March from Saint-Nazaire to its home port in Genoa, Italy where it will be christened. It is expected to enter service on March 23 cruising the Mediterranean Sea.

## NEWSSPLASH

**COMPILED:** Jeffrey L. Seifert, jseifert@amusementtoday.com

**Cowabunga Bay** waterpark in Henderson near Las Vegas, Nev. broke ground on December 4. The $23 million, waterpark, expected to open in the summer of 2013, will have a 1960's beach theme, with three themed areas paying homage to America's favorite beaches. Aloha Shores will have a Hawaiian look, Surf City USA, will be retro-Californian, and the Boardwalk will be a tribute to the Atlantic City, New Jersey Shore.

On the other side of town, construction of the new **Wet 'n' Wild** waterpark was already underway. Developers of both projects do not seem to be all that concerned. "The Las Vegas market is so big and underserved that there's plenty to share," said Shane Huish, general manager of Cowabunga Bay. "I think without them here, we'd be a huge success. But by splitting the market, we'll just be a big success. It's great that we're on opposite ends of town — I fully expect the public will try out both of them."

Both parks are hoping to open by Memorial Day.

•

**MGM Resorts** has announced plans to build yet another Las Vegas waterpark. MGM Resorts has petitioned the county for permission to reclassify 23-acres of land next to the **Circus Circus Hotel and Casino**. Initial plans call for a small 5.5-acre waterpark featuring a children's pool and play structure, lazy river, two water slides, cabanas and two snack bars.

•

The city council of Windsor, Ont., awarded operations of the new **Windsor Family Aquatic Complex** to the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), rejecting a competing bid from the YMCA that was $200,000 less. The city council felt a unionized work force was worth the extra money, but some citizens are critical of decision, citing the union's previous tactics of threatening strikes and demanding more money once a foothold is gained.

•

Greenville, Texas is one step closer to making a waterpark in the city a reality. The City Council agreed to accept a letter of intent with Canton, Texas-based **Splash Kingdom**. The city would provide tax incentives as well as water and sewer line improvements, and Splash Kingdom would invest at least $5 million into the building of the park. The two parties are hoping to have the waterpark open for the 2014 season.

•

Georgia's long-established **Lake Winnepesaukah** amusement park received a $198,000 tax break endorsement from the Catoosa County Economic Development Authority to assist with the creation of a **SoakYa**, new $6.3 million waterpark. In endorsing the bill, authority member Scott Smith stated "We have an obligation to not only help bring in new business but to provide assistance to our older, established businesses, as well." The bill was unanimously approved by the county's board of commissioners just a few days later and was expected to be approved by the state under House Bill 386 a new Georgia law that exempts projects of "regional significance" from state and local use taxes. If approved, the waterpark could be the first project to get a tax break under the new law.

The 5-acre SoakYa expansion is the first major expansion of the 88-year-old amusement park since 1960s when he park doubled in size, adding the **Cannon Ball Roller Coaster** and antique wooden carousel. Groundbreaking took place on January 9.

•

**Schlitterbahn Beach** is adding another feature to the RFID wristband currently used at its South Padre waterpark — keyless hotel room access. The newly opened Schlitterbahn South Padre Island Beach Resort will issue guests a waterproof **Precision Dynamics Smart Band RFID** wristband at check in. The RFID chip sealed inside the band will electronically trigger the guest's hotel room door to open as they approach the room. Schlitterbahn Waterparks has been using Smart Bands since 2008 when it first rolled out the electronic wrist wallet known as "splash cash" at its **Galveston Island** waterpark. Splash cash allows guests to purchase food, beverages and souvenirs without having to carry around a wallet. Parents can set limits on the amount of money their children are able to spend. The Smart Band is non-transferable and uses secure encryption to prevent unauthorized use or counterfeiting.

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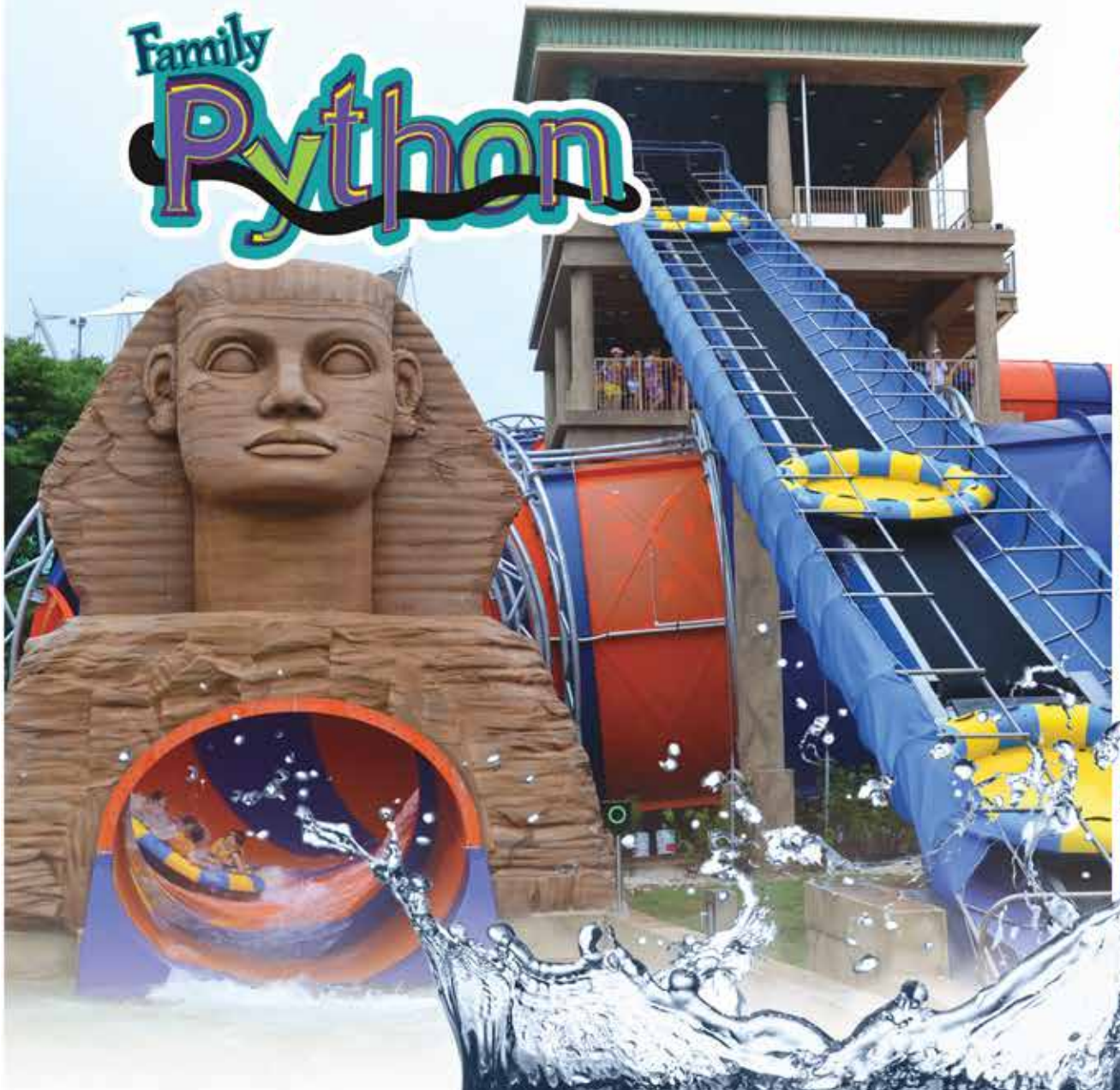

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# BUSINESS

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## Reporter's Notebook

### Holiday World names new president/CEO

Eckert

SANTA CLAUS, Ind. — The board of directors for Holiday World & Splashin' Safari has named Matt Eckert the park's new president and CEO.

"Matt was hand-picked by my late husband, Will, to be in a leadership role at the park; I know he would be pleased with our choice," says park vice president Lori Koch. "As president and CEO, Matt will work closely with our board to keep our family's park flourishing."

Eckert began his tenure with the park in 2000, when he was hired to be the park's controller; he served as one of the park's two general managers from 2007 to 2012. He is an International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA) Certified Attractions Executive and has served on its Human Resources Committee.

Eckert is a graduate of Indiana State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and insurance. He is a certified public accountant.

"My brother-in-law Dan stepped in to serve as president following Will's sudden death in 2010," says Lori Koch. "We thank him for his leadership and wish him well as he returns full-time to his law firm in Florida."

Holiday World's board of directors includes Lauren Koch, Leah Koch, William A. Koch III, and former IAAPA president/CEO Chip Cleary.

## Rye Playland's future as an amusement park remains uncertain

**STORY:** *Scott Rutherford*
*srutherford@amusementtoday.com*

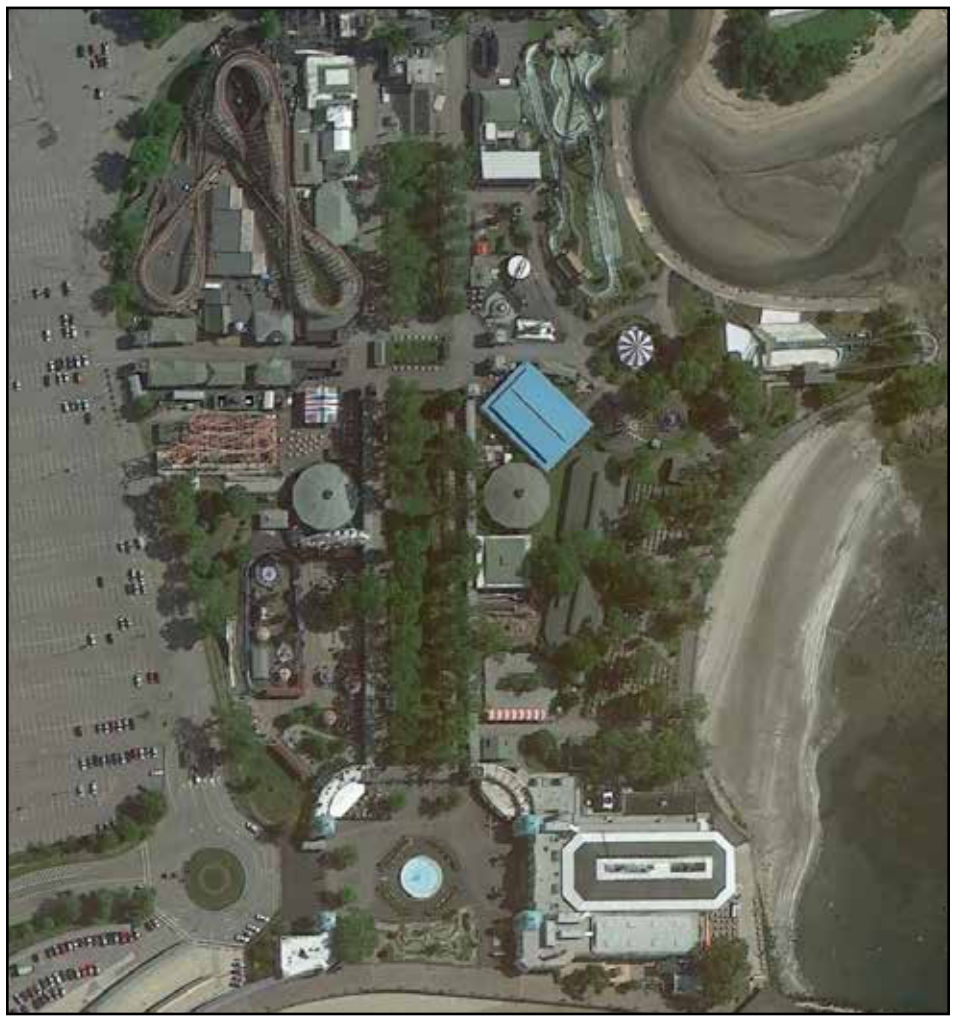
RYE, N.Y. — The future of one of the country's most beloved amusement parks – Playland Park – is in serious jeapordy. Playland is operated by Westchester County, which makes it the only government owned-and-operated amusement park in the United States. And that very fact is part of the problem. Unlike a family-owned park, Playland is overseen by bureaucrats, not by individuals who live and and breathe the amusement industry.

It is estimated to cost up to $5 million for Westchester County to operate the park each year. And for many seasons, the park has lost money. This has been blamed on poor weather, the recession and most recently on the admission fee now charged at the front gate.

In an effort to save money, Westchester County began (in 2010) to solicit bids to outside firms with the goal of 'reinventing Playland.' They recieved 11 proposals but only three were selected as finalists:

•**Sustainable Playland**, a Rye-based group that wants to drastically alter the park's original, carefully-planned layout to create more open 'green spaces.' While a few of the historic attractionslike the Dragon Coaster and parts of Kiddieland would be spared, Sustainable Playland wants the majority of the rides gone. Furthermore, they plan to completely eliminate buildings and structures that 'block the view of Long Island Sound.'

•**Central Amusements International, LLC (CAI Parks)**, an amusement park planner, developer and operator founded in 2002 by Alberto Zamperla and Valerio Ferrari. They operate Coney Island's Cyclone, Luna Park and Scream Zone. CAI would work closely with with former Director of Playland Joe Montalto in an effort keep Playland intact as a true family amusement park while taking care of the historical structures and preserving them for the future as well as upgrading and unpdating the entire facility with a host of new attractions.



**This Google Earth view shows the historic Playland Park, Rye, N.Y., as seen today as a thriving amusement park.**
COURTESY GOOGLE EARTH

•**Standard Amuse-ments, LLC**, an amusement park operator headed by Jack Falfas, formerly of Cedar Fair., has goals very similar to CAI in terms of ensuring Playand retains its traditional amusement park look and feel. SA's proposal also heavily focuses on cleaning up the park's image and restoring the classic rides and attractions to proper operating standards asl well as adding plenty of contemporary rides and activities.

According to a report published in the *Rye Daily Voice* on Jan. 2, 2013, Sustainable Playland reached a civic-commercial partnership to operate the park. The report says the Rye City Council recently passed a resolution giving its unanimous support for the project. In October, County Executive Rob Astorino signed a letter of intent that will preserve the Dragon Coaster, boardwalk and Kiddyland. However, new elements would be added include an Aqua Zone mini-waterpark and beach attractions; outdoor ball fields and field house; and renovations to the indoor ice rink.

But sources close to the action say this may not be the end of the the story. Apparently, internal conflicts reamin over the finalization of the agreement with Sustainable Playland and the Board of Legislators. Only time will tell if Westchester County officials will choose the right path and allow this National Historic Landmark to remain a traditonal amusment park with a its inherent charm and nostalgia.

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*Calif. Supreme Court decision may apply widely*

# Bumper car injury case ruling seen as major industry 'victory'

**STORY:** *Dean Lamanna*
*Special to Amusement Today*

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — In a decision that may have wide application in the amusement and leisure industries, the California Supreme Court has decided that bumper car passengers may not sue parks over injuries sustained through this inherently risky type of attraction.

**AT EXCLUSIVE**

"It's a very significant victory, a great result for our industry," said John Robinson, CEO of the Sacramento-based California Attractions and Parks Association (CAPA). "Clearly, with the nature of the bumper car attraction, there is an assumption of risk—that certain things will occur when you engage in certain activities."

The 6-1 ruling, handed down December 31, was the outcome of a lawsuit filed by Smriti Nalwa, who suffered a fractured wrist in a head-on collision on the bumper car attraction at California's Great America in Santa Clara while riding it with her nine-year-old son in 2005.

Nalwa's attorney argued that the park and its owner, Cedar Fair, had told ride operators not to allow head-on collisions, but failed to ask patrons to avoid them. Yet the court determined that the collision was a normal part of the ride, and that the attraction, both in actuality and in concept, would have to be closed or completely reconfigured to reduce all risk of injury.

"A small degree of risk inevitably accompanies the

**John Robinson**
**CAPA CEO**

thrill of speeding through curves and loops, defying gravity or, in bumper cars, engaging in the mock violence of low-speed collisions," wrote Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar for the majority. "Those who voluntarily join in these activities also voluntarily take on their minor inherent risks."

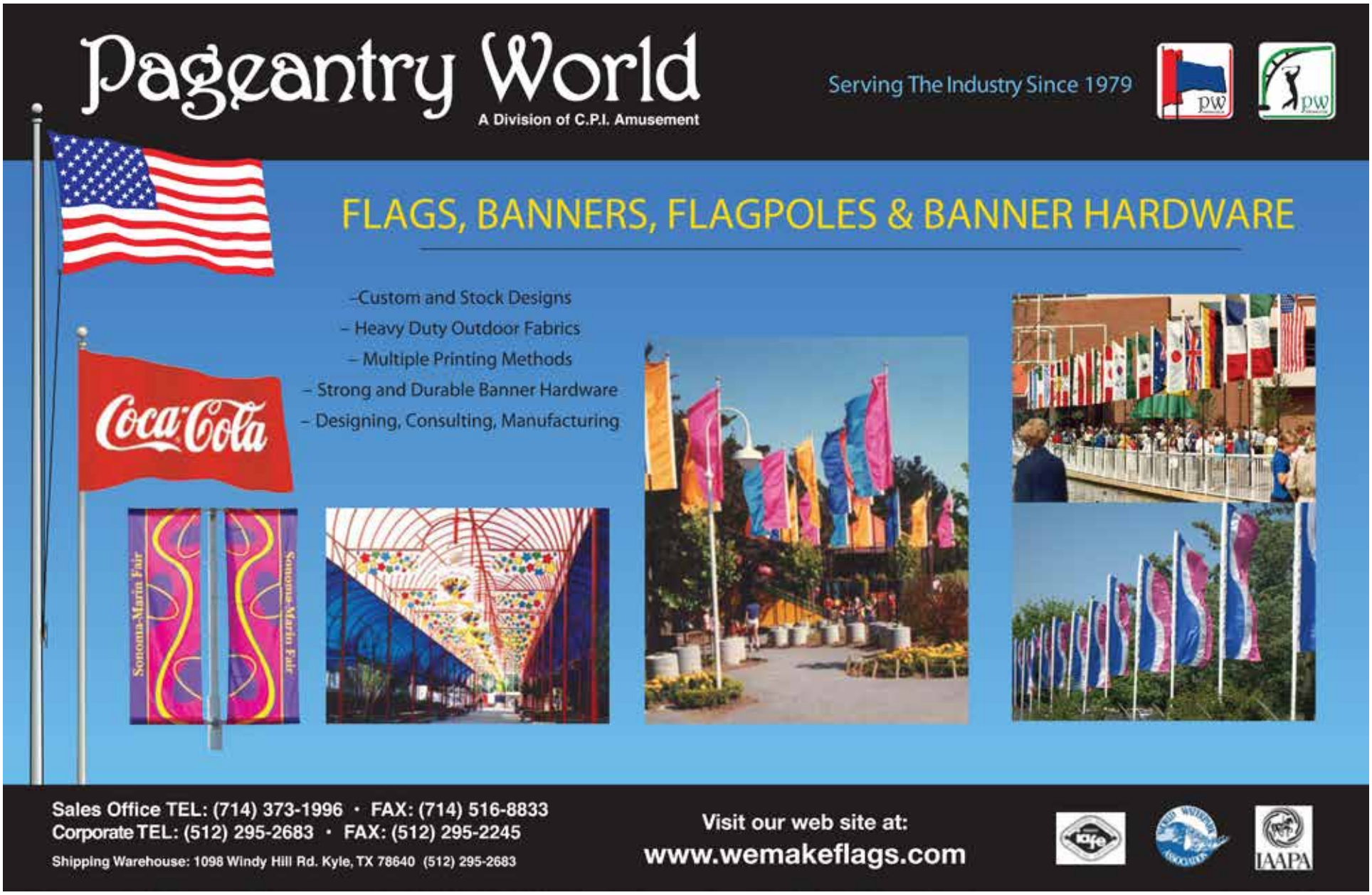
The decision elaborated: "We conclude the primary assumption of risk doctrine, though most frequently applied to sports, applies as well to certain other recreational activities including bumper car rides. We further conclude the doctrine applies to the ride here, even though amusement parks are subject to state safety regulations and even though, as to some rides, park owners owe participants the heightened duty of care of a common carrier for reward….

"Finally, we hold defendant's limited duty of care under the primary assumption of risk doctrine — the duty not to unreasonably increase the risk of injury over and above that inherent in the low-speed collisions essential to bumper car rides — did not extend to preventing head-on collisions between the cars."

The justices acknowledged that the park's bumper car ride was functioning normally, having undergone an annual state inspection and a routine maintenance check the day of the incident.

Lawyers in the case said that, by extension, the decision may be cited to limit liability in a broad array of activities, including ice skating, jet skiing and fitness class exercises.

"This was the most significant case for our industry in years," said CAPA's John Robinson. "The opinion is based on bumper cars, but I think eventually it will be decided in other activities and attractions. How many different attractions, and what types, this will affect—and what it means for future litigation — is something we'll be looking at. But it is the right ruling, and we're very encouraged by it."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IAAPA

# FastTrack

**COMPILED:** Scott Rutherford,
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

The Orange County chapter of the American Red Cross recently recognized the **Disneyland Resort** for excellence in disaster preparedness. Over the past year, hundreds of stage managers and working leads participated in emergency preparedness workshops, learning about their roles in a major disaster or emergency, including implementing the resort's evacuation plan.

•

**RWS and Associates Entertainment Inc., Ryan Stana**, CEO and founder, is proud to announce their 10th Anniversary of being one of America's premier production companies. RWS' core belief is to make entertainment the main attraction at theme parks, shopping centers, cruise lines, resorts, galas, product launches, and within the fashion industry. This dedication to quality has earned the company an EMMY Award for the television production of Macy's Stars on Broadway, several IAAPA Brass Ring Awards, and Amusement Today's Golden Ticket Award.

•

When **Cedar Point** decided to renovate its Midway area, they chose loudspeakers from **One Systems**, a leading designer and builder of direct weather, high intelligibility speakers. Together, Washington Professional Systems of Wheaton, Maryland and Audio Design Solutions of New Market, Maryland, performed the site analysis, system design and installation.

•

**The Universal Entertainment Group** has announced that it has concluded a basic agreement with Robinsons Land Corporation, one of the Philippines' leading real estate development companies, regarding **Manila Bay Resorts**, a casino resort complex being developed by the group. **Robinsons Land Corporation** shall acquire a minority stake in **Tiger Resorts, Leisure and Entertainment Inc.**, the operating company of the project and a wholly owned subsidiary of the group.

•

**SeaWorld San Antonio** opens for its 25th operating season on Feb. 2 and will feature different animal shows on weekends this month. starring Jack Hanna. "Wild Days" continues with three more weekends of fascinating animal presentations.

•

**The N.C. Aquarium** at Fort Fisher welcomed eight endangered sea turtles on New Year's Day, the aquarium said Monday in a news release. The animals were injured along the New England coast in early December. More than 150 endangered sea turtles were rescued and transported to the **New England Aquarium** after becoming ill from prolonged exposure to cold water temperatures. The extraordinary number of turtles rescued required collaboration with wildlife organizations and aquariums offering space and resources to care for the sick animals.

•

**Charter Communications** and **The Walt Disney Company** have announced a comprehensive long-term distribution agreement to deliver Disney's lineup of top quality sports, news and entertainment content to Charter TV customers.

•

**Tourism Development and Investment Company** (TDIC), master developer of major tourism, cultural and residential destinations in Abu Dhabi, has awarded the construction of the **Louvre Abu Dhabi**, set to open in the Saadiyat Cultural District in 2015, to Arabtec-led joint venture with Constructora San Jose SA and Oger Abu Dhabi LLC following a competitive tendering process.The contract, valued at AED 2.4 billion (U.S. $654 million), signifies a major milestone in the progress of the

•

**MGM Resorts** is unveiling large Wi-Fi networks that will allow visitors at its Las Vegas casinos free wireless Internet access in public areas.The system is already in effect at the **Bellagio, MGM Grand, Mandalay Bay** and **The Mirage.** It's expected to be installed this year in the **Monte Carlo, New York-New York, Luxor** and **Excalibur**. Company officials say basic Internet access is available to anyone who comes into public areas such as the lobby, pool area, casino and restaurants, and doesn't require a password.

•

The **Ohio State Fair**, in conjunction with the Ohio Soybean Council, has received an award of distinction in the inaugural Soybean and Environmental Sustainability Awards competition from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) for its soybean education program at the 2012 Fair.

•

CaixaBank has reached an agreement with Looping Group a French group specializing in the management of parks controlled by U.S. investment firm HIG - for the sale of its shares in the theme park **Isla Magica** in Seville, Spain where the financial institution has the 82.8 percent of the capital of the park.

•

The **Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum** has introduced its first major new exhibit in a decade. The museum outside Tucson opened its new **Warden Aquarium** featuring dozens of fish and other creatures, including the Apache trout and the Colorado pikeminnow.

•

**Disneyland** will unveil a new theatrical production that incorporates Mickey Mouse and other Disney characters this summer. "Mickey and the Magical Map" will appear in the Fantasyland Theater near It's a Small World. In the show, Mickey Mouse stumbles into a fantastic adventure through worlds of music, color and beloved characters. Disney shared artwork that revealed other characters in the show, including some from "The Jungle Book," "Tangled" and "Pocahontas."

•

**Europa-Park** in Rust, Germany is looking back on a year of superlatives: In 2012 Germany's biggest theme park has exceeded the record mark of 4.5 million visitors for the first time. Visitor numbers at Europa-Park steadily increase and a rising number of guests came from countries other than Germany, France and Switzerland. 2012 was also the year of the highest investment volume in the history of the park with the opening of its fifth hotel and a wooden roller coaster from U.S.-based Great Coasters International.

## Santa Cruz chooses Core Cashless

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — Core Cashless recently announced the addition of Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk to the growing Core user family. This historic park has selected Core Cashless to provide cashless revenue management systems for their arcade and midway games. In addition, Core will be deploying cashless solutions at the park's bowling center, miniature golf and laser tag.

Carl Arnett, technical director at SCBB, offered his thoughts on the decision to partner with Core: "The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has been an innovation leader in using technology and automation to benefit its operations. We are happy to have now partnered with Core Cashless to provide us with innovative front and back of house systems for our vast arcades, midway games and multiple attractions including miniature golf, laser tag and bowling center. The system will include self-service sales kiosks, attraction POS systems and redemption prize tracking."

## W.T. Glasgow announces new address

MOKENA, Il. — William T. Glasgow Event Management, operators of the upcoming Amusement Expo 2013 in Las Vegas, has announced that it has completed its move to a new facility. The company's new address is:

**William T. Glasgow, Inc.**
**10072 W. 190th Place • Mokena, Il. 60448**
**Office: (708) 226-1300 • Fax: (708) 226-1310**
**Email: info@wtglasgow.com**

## Fullers Group Ltd. chooses Galaxy Ticketing

BOYERTOWN, Pa. — Gateway Ticketing Systems has announced that the Fullers Group Ltd. has chosen Gateway's flagship product, Galaxy, for their ticketing and access control software. Fullers Group, located in New Zealand, has been the leading ferry operator in Auckland for over 20 years. The company offers a wide range of ferry trips, tours and charters in Auckland Harbour and the Hauraki Gulf Islands.

Installing Galaxy on the ferry and tour vessels will enable Fullers to combat potential theft and fraud. By printing tickets on demand, rather than using preprinted ticket products, there is less opportunity for ticket theft or loss.

The Galaxy Admission Control module will provide clear and accurate ridership numbers, allowing Fullers to make the best possible operational decisions and to track usage on passes. Admission control will also provide their marketing department with more information so they can created targeted promotions, including the Galaxy Packages module, Galaxy Loyalty programs and Galaxy Upsell opportunities.

## Transformers coming to Universal Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. — Universal Orlando Resort announced that its next blockbuster attraction will be the widely-popular Transformers: The Ride-3D. The groundbreaking ride, created under license from Hasbro, Inc. and based on its iconic Transformers brand, will bring the intergalactic battle between the Autobots and the Decepticons to Universal Studios Florida in summer 2013.

Universal worked closely with Michael Bay, the award-wining director of the "Transformers" film series and the ride's creative consultant, to create an authentic experience that brings the non-stop action of the films to life. The attraction combines the larger-than-life Transformer characters and an exciting storyline with life-like HD CGI media, state-of-the-art 3-D technology and amazing special effects to place riders right in the middle of an epic battle between good and evil.

"Transformers: The Ride-3D is the perfect addition to Universal Orlando's thrilling theme park experiences," said Mark Woodbury, president of Universal Creative. "The ride has already proven to be a hit at our Hollywood and Singapore parks, and we're excited that Universal Orlando guests will soon be able to join the Autobots in the fight to save the world."

**CONTINUING COVERAGE | SUPERSTORM SANDY**

*Iconic storm-damaged N.J. park preps for rebuilding*

# Casino Pier betting on at least partial reopening this spring

**STORY:** *Dean Lamanna*
*Special to Amusement Today*

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. — In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Casino Pier became the unwitting national "face" of Mother Nature's wrath. Now, the battered beachfront amusement park is ready to shed that image — literally clearing the deck for its return to the business of fun.

**Cirigliano**

"Our priority is to move all the rides off the pier and get it ready for the contractors who will come in to rebuild it," said Lou Cirigliano, director of operations for Casino Pier and its companion waterpark, Breakwater Beach. The task was to be completed by early January.

As of late December, owner Casino Beach Pier, LLC, was still awaiting full engineering and insurance reports to determine how, and to what extent, the pier will be replaced, and what the specifications and building code requirements will be. Nearly half of the pier was destroyed by the storm, and the cost to restore it is estimated to be in the tens of millions of dollars.

Noting that Casino Pier had just taken a delivery of new wooden pilings to get a jump on the expected regional run on construction materials, Cirigliano predicted the rebuilding would entail using a combination wood and concrete materials to create a more tidal surge-resistant structure.

**Many of the rides remaining on Casino Pier, including the Enterprise (above) and Wild Mouse Coaster, had been removed to make way for eventual rebuilding by the end of December.** COURTESY DEBBIE CARU / CASINO BEACH PIER, LLC

"The owners want to move forward fast, but a number of people are involved in the process, including an electrical engineer, and we have to wait for each one," he said, adding that the pier was still without electricity. "We realize everybody is doing the best they can."

Meanwhile, there's the task of determining the viability of Casino Pier's remaining attractions inventory.

"We have many rides that are salvageable, but parts for them — including motors and controls — were stored in the Centrifuge [indoor Scrambler ride] building on the back of the pier, which was lost in the storm," Cirigliano said. "We figure about 15 to 18 of the almost 40 rides we had should be operational prior to this season."

An unexpected three feet of stormwater inside Casino Pier's other winter storage facility, located several miles inland in nearby Toms River, aggravated the losses. "We'd never experienced flooding at that location previously," said Cirigliano. Several of the warehoused rides suffered compromised electrical systems.

The good news: the property's Breakwater Beach waterpark, situated inland a half block west of the pier, emerged undamaged and has already been cleaned up. The facility had undergone its annual winterization in mid-October — two weeks before Sandy arrived.

"There was no flooding in any of the pump rooms, and all the pipes were capped — so we don't anticipate having any sand or any breach of our systems," Cirigliano said. "There should be no hiccups in readying Breakwater Beach for a Memorial Day Weekend opening."

Cirigliano's forward-looking optimism is a far cry from the dread he felt the day before Sandy's October 29 landfall. "I was standing on the far end of the pier behind Stillwalk Manor [dark ride], which we lost, and I got kind of queasy. I thought I was actually standing on the water — that's how high the tide was beneath the deck. We knew we were in big trouble.

"The fury of nature is something I'll never take for granted again," he added of the aftermath. "You see things like this elsewhere in the world but never think it will touch you. And once it does, you become a lot more of a realist."

Among the challenges faced by the operation, one of the most daunting was maintaining employee communications after everyone had evacuated the island and the storm severed utilities.

"We assumed we'd all be back together at work on Tuesday [October 30] after the storm passed," Cirigliano said. "But the electrical grid was down and no one had access to anything except cell phones."

Breakwater Beach's general manager, Christine Palma, created an employee Facebook page as an information exchange, and Cirigliano set up a virtual "command center" with the Web-based text-messaging services of ISS 24/7, a Florida-based company whose software is used by the property during the summer to alert visitors to specials and other announcements at the pier and waterpark.

"We had to keep our people in the loop somehow, and social media and texting did it," said Cirigliano, who had intermittent generator power at his home in Middletown, about an hour away, and was able to keep his laptop PC and cell phone charged. "It was a team effort; I'm very lucky to be surrounded by the best professionals."

Those professionals include Kimberle Samarelli, executive director of the Seaside Heights-based New Jersey Amusement Association, and the first responders who rushed in as Sandy passed.

"Kim has made sure that the necessary resources and support have been there," Cirigliano said. "And from the police and fire chiefs to everybody down the line, plus those who came in from out of town and state to help, they all deserve praise. We can't thank them enough."

Cirigliano also gave a shout-out to the cast members of MTV's "Jersey Shore," who returned to Seaside Heights in mid-November for an MTV telethon / TV special called "Restore the Shore."

"They were always regular visitors to our property," he said. "JWoww [Jenni Farley] can act like a witch on the show, but off the TV, they're all really genuine, down-to-earth people. They knew that Seaside was good to them. Their wanting to do something nice to help the town was good to see.

"The support from all over has been heartwarming. And it has enabled us to say, 'We can do this.'"

**Casino Beach Pier, LLC's Breakwater Beach waterpark, on the land side of the boardwalk, suffered no major damage from Superstorm Sandy's seawater surge, which rose to eight feet or more above the average high tide line in parts of central and northern New Jersey. The facility is expected to open Memorial Day Weekend.**
COURTESY LOU CIRIGLIANO/CASINO BEACH PIER, LLC

### *Congress approves initial Sandy aid*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After marathon year-end "fiscal cliff" negotiations that left lawmakers either too tired or unwilling to vote on a $60 billion disaster relief package for Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts in the northeastern U.S — a lack of action that infuriated New Jersey governor Chris Christie and other leaders in the region — the new Congress approved an initial $9.7 billion to replenish the National Flood Insurance Program during the first week of January. An additional $51 billion in aid was to come up for vote around the middle of the month.

# NEW JERSEY AMUSEMENT ASSOCIATION

**SUPERSTORM SANDY**

## *Restore, Rebuild and Reopen*

# NJAA gives Sandy damage tour to IAAPA executives

**Kimberle Rolle Samarelli**
*NJAA executive director*
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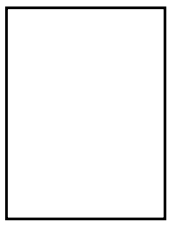
*njaa40plus@aol.com*



**Samarelli**

KEANSBURG, N.J. — Not even one day after Superstorm Sandy hit the Jersey Shore, the New Jersey Amusement Association received a call from Chip Cleary, Stephaine See and Randy Davis of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA). They understood the amusement industry in New Jersey had been hit very hard. "What can we do?" they asked.

We know that in the history of both our associations, there is not a rule book here telling us what to do or how to do it in these circumstances. I knew they needed to see it here on the ground first hand to truly understand what both associations could do together to help the industry. I personally tell everyone that the pictures due no justice. One must actually witness the reality. Unfortunately it is our new reality.

From that minute forward we pressed along quickly to set schedules for IAAPA to get on the ground here in New Jersey to see first hand what our members needed. We set up the dates of December 13 & 14 2012. The team visited Union Beach, Keansburg, Point Pleasant Beach.

The following members from IAPPA visited New Jersey: Chip Cleary, Will and Janice Morey, Susan Mosedale, Randy Davis, Stephanie Robert, Denise Beckson. Representing the NJAA was John Maurer, Kim Samarelli, Larry Zucker and Ed McGlynn.

The team visited with Hank Gehlhaus from Jersey Shore Beach and Boardwalk, a amusement facility that is over 100 years old. They brainstormed on the needs and showed IAAPA members the damage they had incurred. Next, the team headed to Jenkinson's Boardwalk in Point Pleasant Beach for a meeting with the Anthony Storino family. Here, they were shown the devastation that occurred at that amusement park with the entire boardwalk gone,and the monumental clean up efforts that are occurring in that park.

Everyone was able to get a first hand look and emotionally feel the devastation that had occurred. With both parks being family owned and operated, plans were moving rapidly to expedite the recovery efforts. A great deal of strategic planning, suggestions and bouncing of ideas was given from all who participated. We cannot express enough our sincere gratitude to the leaders and members of IAAPA for being there as a partner, mentor, but more importantly a FRIEND to help guide our members with resources and tools to rebuild a better amusement industry in New Jersey.

The photos shown on this NJAA page represent the first day of our tour at Keansburg, N.J. There is an old saying "Pictures speak a thousand words". Ours tell a story of an industry that will not be kicked while its down it, but will rebuild bigger and better and rise to the occasion. Jersey Strong! We will be open for business in 2013. Memorial Day is less then 130 days away!

Both organizations know that with our partnering together we will continue to move forward.

**Left to right: Hank Gelhaus, Keansburg Amusement Park shows IAAPA's Will Morey (r) the damage from Superstorm Sandy; the tour showed other park damage ranging from vending machines to rides.**
COURTESY NJAA

**Left to right: NJAA and IAAPA officials, including Chip Cleary shown in red jacket (center), tour the Kingsburg Amusement Park damage left by Superstrom Sandy.**
COURTESY NJAA

***Space for this NJAA Superstorm Sandy page is provided courtesy of Amusement Today as a corporate partner with the NJAA. Please direct comments to: njaa40plus@aol.com***

## *Former BPAA CEO Don Harris dies at 60*

DALLAS, Texas — Don Harris, former executive director of BPAA, passed away Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012 from complications after suffering a stroke the previous Tuesday. He was 60.

Don headed the BPAA from Jan. 1996 - Sept. 1999 after serving as head of the National Independent Automobile Dealers Association. During his tenure Don assembled BPAA staff, grew membership, replenished financial reserves, and strengthened the Quality Connection (group purchasing) program. He is also credited with breathing new life into International Bowl Expo, breaking attendance records and taking it from just an annual convention and making it the premier bowling industry event.

Don was a Texan by birth, graduating from the University of North Texas with a BBA in Journalism.

He is survived by his mother, Joyce Harris; brother, Bob Harris and wife, Joan; daughter, Macy Workman and husband, Chris; son, Jonathan Harris; and one grandson, Jonah Workman.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pioneer Bible Translators, Dallas, Texas, or Christian Care Center, Mesquite, Texas.

# Former Kennywood Park's president Carl Hughes dies at 91

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Carl Hughes, former president and chairman of Kennywood Park, passed away Dec. 29 of heart failure in his Pennsylvania home. He was 91.

**Hughes**

Born in Johnstown, Pa., Carl graduated from Geneva College and began his career in 1943 as a sports writer for *The Pittsburgh Press*. In addition, he would help a friend working publicity for Kennywood in writing park press releases. After being drafted into the Army and stationed in the Philippines, he returned home in 1947. While keeping his job at the Press, he also worked part-time at Kennywood in publicity. In 1956, he joined Kennywood full-time.

**Carl and ACE co-founder Richard Munch at the ACE Coaster Con 3, Kennywood Park, May 1981.**
COURTESY RICHARD MUNCH

His initial job of coordinating park sales and publicity changed three years later, when Carl's boss, Carl Henninger, died of a heart attack, and Hughes became park manager.

"Around that time," said Harry Henninger, who starting working at the park in 1963, "Kennywood was considered just an average amusement park with average facilities. Hughes aspired to turn it into something more. He was instrumental in getting Kennywood onto the National Register of Historic Places, making it in 1987 the first amusement park to receive that distinction. He also had a constant drive for perfection and a vision for keeping the park beautiful. It wasn't just a roller coaster, it was a feeling that you wanted to have throughout the park for family entertainment."

"Carl reached a lot of milestones during his time in the amusement industry," said Andy Quinn, director of community relations at Kennywood. "Along with transforming Kennywood itself into the legend it has become, he was the first IAAPA president that had no actual ownership of his park. Elevating him to that position really showed how well respected he was by his peers. He focused on truly broadening the scope and reach of IAAPA on an international basis. Another highlight of his long career came in 1990 when he became the first living legend to be inducted into IAAPA's Hall of Fame."

**Carl Hughes as seen in 2009 with his wife Ann (left) and daughter Mary Lou Rosemeyer.**
COURTESY B. DEREK SHAW

According to Mary Lou Rosemeyer, Carl's daughter who also worked at the park for 23 years, Hughes often worked six or seven days a week. He never left the park for the day without complimenting at least one employee on a job well done, even if that meant wandering the park at night looking for a ride attendant treating a guest particularly well. He considered himself just one of Kennywood's many team members. "He really took Kennywood from just a little — kind of dirty — park into one that was envied by park owners around the world," said Rosemeyer. "That was his goal, to make it the finest traditional amusement park anywhere."

Another one of Carl Hughes' major contributions is the beloved slogan he came up with for Kennywood's Kiddieland: *The most beautiful music in the world is the sound of children laughing.*

"While there were others involved with Kennywood's turnaround in the late 1960's and early 1970's, it was Hughes who may have been the biggest force behind the changes

▸ See HUGHES, page 35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## ▶HUGHES

Continued from page 34

at the park during that time. He was instrumental in the Pippen remodel and upgrade, helping the new Thunderbolt to receive top honors in Robert Cartmell's now legendary Top Ten list. That one article made the ride famous and helped to put the park on the map." said Richard Munch, National Roller Coaster Museum historian. " IAAPA recognized his importance in 1990, when they inducted him into the Hall of Fame as one of their first recipients. But even with all those accolades, when I think of Carl Hughes, I think of Kennywood. There is no question that many of the rides and experiences we take for granted today can be credited to his foresight and leadership."

In addition to Rosemeyer, Carl is survived by his wife, Anny Hughes; another daughter, Lynn Cauley of Pittsburgh; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family asks donations be sent to Geneva College or Smithfield United Church of Christ.

# Industry attorney John W. Grund dies at 62

DENVER, Colo. — John W. Grund passed away suddenly on Dec. 24, 2012. He was 62.

Grund

A Denver native, John Grund grew up in Littleton, graduating from Littleton High School in 1968. He attended Pomona College, earned his Master's degree from the University of Washington, and his law degree from the University of Colorado Law School, where he would find his true avocation and a stellar career in insurance defense litigation.

Grund founded and served as managing shareholder of Grund and Dagner, P.C., a Colorado law firm specializing in amusement industry cases. He was also the current vice president of the International Amusement & Leisure Defense Association (IALDA). Earlier in his career, he was a partner in the Denver firms of Tilly & Graves, P.C.; Montgomery, Green, Jarvis, Kolodny & Markusson, P.C.; and Grund & Breslau, P.C. John sat on the Colorado Supreme Court Committee on Civil Pattern Jury Instructions (since 1987) as an appointed member and chaired the subcommittee responsible for Product Liability, Professional Malpractice, and Insurance Bad Faith.

He co-authored the four-volume Personal Injury Practice — Torts and Insurance and contributed three chapters to Colorado Courtroom Handbook for Civil Trials. Well-respected and admired by his peers, John was the first recipient of the John W. Grund Excellence in Leadership Award, 2001; first recipient, President's Professionalism Award, 2010; DRI Service Award Recipient, March 12, 1999; Colorado Super Lawyer, 2007-Present; and selected to The Best Lawyers in America, in the specialty of Insurance Law, 2007-Present.

John overcame many obstacles resulting from a trampoline injury in 1967 that left him a partially-recovered quadriplegic. He met these physical challenges head-on and enjoyed many years of skiing as part of the Winter Park program for skiers with disabilities.

Grund's many friends from IALDA commented on his sudden passing saying:

"John was the bravest, smartest and happiest person that I have ever known," said Lary I. Zucker, Esq., Marshall Dennehey.

"Despite John's 50 years of major disability from a trampoline incident, John never let his physical infirmities get in the way of his active life and law profession. He was one of the top western mountain region Trial Attorneys defending the amusement and recreational industries for many years. He set the standards for exemplary legal ethics and love of the law. We at IALDA will miss John's brilliant mind, caring for others, and his constant optimism and cheerfulness for life." said Joe Brownlee, Brownlee law Firm.

"John loved the law. He was intrigued by the vast jurisprudence of the law, and loved to delve into the inner depths of both the history and development of the 'legal institution'. For many of us, practicing law is a profession; for John though, it was much more....it was his passion. His contributions to IALDA, both professionally, and personally, will be missed." said Michael L. Amaro, Esq. Prindle, Amaro, Goetz, Hillyard, Barnes & Reinholtz LLP.

Grund is survived by his wife, Kyle; three children, Brandon, Kelly, and Eric; grandson, Liam; his mother, Molly Grund; and siblings, Steve and Chery. John's family is in the process of establishing a scholarship fund in his honor. Please contact John's law firm, Grund Dagner, P.C., for additional details. A celebration of his life is pending.


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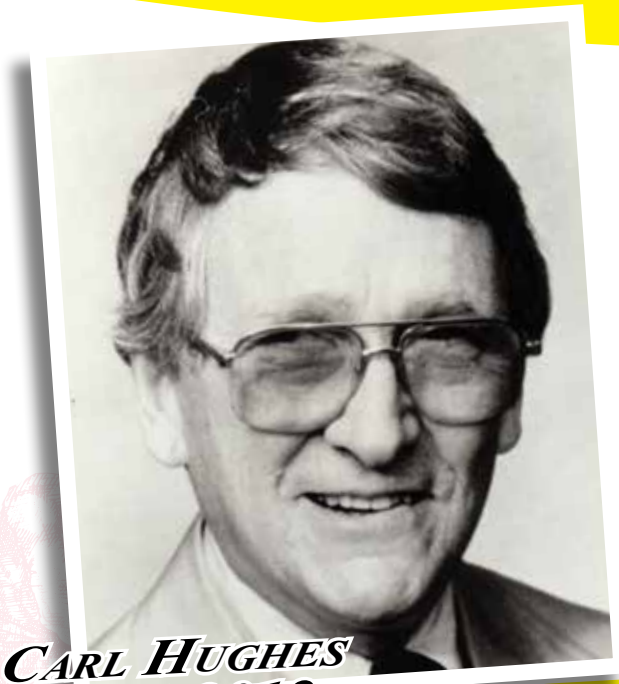

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# Funtown Splashtown USA's founder Ken Cormier dies at 80

SACO, Maine — Kenneth D. Cormier, 80, of Saco, Maine and Poinciana, Fla. died January 8, 2013 in Celebration, Fla. following a brief illness.

He was born October 7, 1932 in Augusta, Maine, the only son of Albert and Mary (Flanders) Cormier. Ken was educated locally, graduating from St. Louis High School in the class of 1952, participating in many varsity sports.

On November 11, 1952 he married Violet Richard. In February 1953, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, stationed in Korea. He received an honorable discharge in February 1955.

In February 1955, he worked in Hartford, Connecticut before enrolling at St. Francis College, now the University of New England, graduating with the class of 1959. While taking classes, he also held three part-time jobs. During the summer seasons, he and his wife Violet ran the Palmer House in Old Orchard Beach. After graduating in 1959, he worked in the St. Francis College Accounting Office as Bursur, at Components (now AVX) in Biddeford as Controller, and in the Accounting Office at Scarborough Downs.

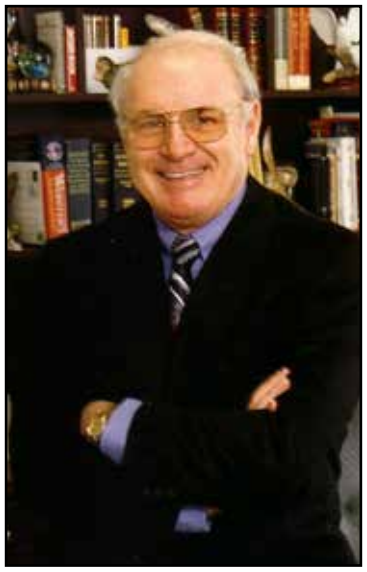
In 1960, he and his wife Violet started the Marvel Drive-In on U.S. Route 1 in Saco. In 1967, he and Violet started Funtown USA in partnership with Andre (Ted) and Muriel Dallaire, Violet's sister and brother-in-law. In 1996, Ken and Violet purchased the Cascade Water Park and Amusements from the Dallaire Family, creating Funtown Splashtown USA.

Ken was very active in the amusement and attractions industry. He served a three-year term on the board of directors and Audit Committee for IAAPA from 2008-2011. He was inducted in the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) Hall of Fame in 2005. He was named Small Business Person of the Year for Maine in 2001.

David Sugrue, Ocean Beach Park general manager and NEAAPA first vice president said, "Ken Cormier's passing causes a void in the New England Amusement Park Industry that will be hard to fill. He was a great leader in our business, a man we all looked up to as recognized in 2005 when he became the 12th inductee into the NEAAPA hall of fame. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his relatives as well as the Funtown Splashtown USA family."

Ken is survived by his wife Violet along with six children and five great-grandchildren.

Donations in Ken's memory may be made to the Saco Food Pantry, P.O. Box 246, Saco, Maine 04072 or to the Animal Welfare Society, P.O. Box 43, West Kenneunk, Maine 04094. To share condolences online, please visit www.HopeMemorial.com.



**Ken Cormier**

## *Ken Cormier remembered by industry...*

"Ken Cormier's passing causes a void in the New England Amusement Park Industry that will be hard to fill. He was a great leader in our business, a man we all looked up to as recognized in 2005 when he became the 12th inductee into the NEAAPA hall of fame. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his relatives as well as the Funtown Splashtown USA family."

***—David Sugrue, Ocean Beach Park general manager and NEAAPA first vice president***

•

"It is with heavy heart that I received the news of a colleague and a good friends passing. Ken's endless energy and thirst for life was always an inspiration. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Cormier family."

***—George Frantzis II, Quassy Amusement Park and NEAAPA past president***

•

"We are all saddened by the news of Ken Cormier's passing. I got to know Ken during my tenure as the president of NEAAPA and always appreciated his gracious and consistent support of the organization and its members. He was a giant in the amusement industry and will always be remembered as such. We will miss him and send our condolences to his family."

***—David J. Daly, Daly Cavanaugh LLP and NEAAPA past president***

•

"Ken Cormier was a great guy and a real American success story. Following his dream, he built Funtown/Splashtown from the ground up, and was always admired for his keen business sense and leadership skills in the industry. He took great pride in his accomplishments and in his family. Ken will be greatly missed by all of us in New England.

***—Carl Berni, Canobie Lake Park president and NEAAPA past president***

•

"I am saddened to learn of Ken's passing as he was someone I always looked up to. Ken was firm in his beliefs and led by example. Through a combination of hard work and sound business decisions Ken and his family were able to turn his vision for Funtown Splashtown into reality. He will be missed."

***—Kevin J. Naughton, Naughton Insurance and NEAAPA past president***

•

"Ken was a great pioneer in the amusement industry in New England. A real gentleman and friend. He will be missed but not forgotten by all of us who have known him throughout the years."

***—Jason Freeman, Six Flags New England and NEAAPA past president***

# IALDA re-elects officers

DALLAS, Texas — The International Amusement and Leisure Defense Association re-elected its officers for 2013 at its annual meeting at IAAPA this past November. IALDA is a non-profit association whose mission is to serve and defend the amusement and leisure industry. It consists not only of attorneys but other persons involved in managing risks for members of the amusement and leisure industry. IALDA currently has approximately 50 members in 27 states.

**Pope**

Dallas attorney Bryan Pope was re-elected as president of the organization. Pope has been defending the amusement industry for more than 25 years. Denver attorney, John Grund, was re-elected as vice president, however, he unexpectedly passed away on Christmas Eve. A successor to his position has not been named. Gaylee Gillim, a Louisville, Kentucky attorney will remain as secretary and Dave Bennett, a Chicago barrister will continue as treasurer of the organization.

A key component of IALDA's mission is to provide educational programs to the amusement and leisure industry. To that end, IALDA has put on numerous symposiums, seminars and other presentations at key association meetings, including presentations for IAAPA, the World Waterpark Association, the Bowling Proprietors Association of America, the Roller Skating Association, the Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers seminar and many other industry forums. Members of IALDA have recently participated in webinars and made presentations on safety issues, social networking issues and crisis management. For example, in January at AIMS in Orlando, Massachusetts Attorney Dave Daly, Michigan attorney Kurt Anselmi and Florida attorney James Wilkinson conducted two legal roundtables with one being specific to the aquatics industry. IALDA also hosts the lAPPA Legal Roundtable each year.

Members of IALDA are currently involved in keeping their clients abreast of the changes required by the amended American with Disabilities Act laws, employment issues, cases on patron responsibility (including the assumption of inherent risks in attending an amusement facility) and many other cutting-edge industry issues.

IALDA was initially formed in 1994. The founding members included California attorneys Michael Amaro and Boyd Jensen, II, Kurt Anselmi, Lary Zucker from New Jersey, Tom Sheehan, of Illinois and Wayne Pierce from Maryland. Additionally, Pat Hoffman, who at the time was with K & K Insurance and is now with Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, was a founding member of IALDA.

Other current board members include Joseph Brownlee of Arizona, Sean Hannon of Pennsylvania, Joe Hassinger from Louisiana and David Daly of Mass..

A number of IALDA's members serve the industry through other organizations. For example, Boyd Jensen II and Tom Sheehan serve on the IAAPA Safety Committee and Lary Zucker serves on the IAAPA Government Relations Committee. Gaylee Gilllim is on the Board of the WWA. Numerous IALDA members serve on ASTM committees.

Additional information can be found on the organization's website IALDA.org. For facilities looking for an IALDA member in their jurisdiction, the organization's website can be searched by state.

Persons interested in becoming a member of IALDA you may obtain a copy of an application from the website or, alternatively, contact the chairman of IALDA's membership committee, Dave Daly at (781) 237-0600 or djd@dalylaw.com.

# MARKETWATCH

## RIDING THE MARKET

| Company | Prices One Month Ago | Prices 01/17/13 | 52 Weeks High | 52 Weeks Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cedar Fair L.P. | $33.75 | $36.65 | $37.69 | $23.86 |
| MGM Mirage | $10.93 | $12.96 | $14.94 | $8.83 |
| Six Flags Ent. Corp. | $62.71 | $62.16 | $64.95 | $41.63 |
| CBS Corp. | $35.84 | $40.95 | $42.55 | $27.81 |
| Walt Disney Co. | $49.48 | $52.41 | $53.40 | $38.38 |
| Apollo Global Mgt. LLC | $16.38 | $20.05 | $20.18 | $10.42 |
| Blackstone Group | $15.01 | $17.15 | $17.25 | $11.12 |
| Village Roadshow | $3.80 | $4.22 | $4.30 | $2.85 |
| NBC Universal | $21.51 | $21.30 | $23.18 | $18.02 |

## DIESEL PRICES

| Region (U.S.) | As of 01/14/13 | Change from year ago |
|---|---|---|
| East Coast | $4.002 | $0.059 |
| Midwest | $3.834 | $0.088 |
| Gulf Coast | $3.824 | $0.047 |
| Mountain | $3.661 | -$0.162 |
| West Coast | $3.900 | -$0.045 |
| California | $4.063 | -$0.053 |

## CURRENCY

**TOP 7 MOST TRADED CURRENCIES**

**On 01/17/13 $1 USD =**

**0.7523 EURO**
**0.6237 GBP (British Pound)**
**88.34 JPY (Japanese Yen)**
**0.9309 CHF (Swiss Franc)**
**0.9471 AUD (Australian Dollar)**
**0.9853 CAD (Canadian Dollar)**

# PEOPLE WATCH

### Hyland Hill Executive Director Mastriona retires

Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District in Federal Heights, Colo. announced the January 1, 2013 retirement of Executive Director **Greg Mastriona**.

Board President Don Ciancio II said, "Greg did a superior job for the district throughout his 43 years at the district. We have the highest regard for hisoverall performance and commitment." He added, "Greg will remain a pillar of the Hyland community and a valued resource for the district — we wish him well."

Succeeding Mastriona is Deputy Director **Yvonne Fischbach** who Mastriona says shares the same passion and vision for the district and who will capably and successfully lead Hyland Hills forward.

### SeaWorld San Antonio names VP of Entertainment

**Aguillen**

**Sharon Aguillen** has been named vice president of entertainment for SeaWorld & Aquatica San Antonio.

Aguillen has been with SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment since 1996, starting at Busch Gardens Williamsburg as a theater services technician. She was promoted to stage manager, production assistant, production supervisor and finally production manager. She advanced to director of show production when she transferred to SeaWorld San Antonio in 2007. She has been instrumental in developing numerous entertainment products for the park.

Aguillen holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dance and Technical Theater from the University of Buffalo. She is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M University in San Antonio.

### National Ticket Co. names Keith Bax new VP

**Bax**

The National Ticket Company, Plaxinos, Pa., board of directors has announced the appointment of **Keith Bax** as vice president of sales and marketing. Keith joins National Ticket Company after a successful six year stint as vice president of marketing for Research Data, Inc., and Conquest Graphics, a leading e-commerce printing company based in Richmond, Virginia. He brings a wealth of marketing, business analysis, and complex solutions development experience to his new role at National Ticket.

He graduated from the University of Richmond with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, and was a member of the University of Richmond varsity soccer team. He likes to spend time with his wife, Leslie, and his son, Axel. Keith enjoys playing and coaching soccer, working out, gardening, and is a former competitive road racing cyclist.

Keith will continue to live and work in the Richmond, Virginia area.

### White Water Bay names new GM

**Riddles**

Premier Attractions Management, operators of White Water Bay waterpark in Oklahoma City, Okla., announce the promotion of **David Riddles** to general manager.

Riddles, a Mustang native, has more than 18 years of water park experience, beginning as a seasonal employee at White Water Bay in 1995 and most recently served as director of operations and maintenance. Riddles holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Riddles serves on the Oklahoma City Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Advisory Board, AIMS International (Amusement Industry Manufacturers & Suppliers), and is a youth coach for Yukon Softball and a member of the Lakehoma Church of Christ.

### Mark Weston joins WhiteWater team

**Weston**

WhiteWater West Ind., Richmond, B.C. Canada, announces that **Mark Weston** has joined the WhiteWater team as senior design project manager, creative development.

Drawing on his industry experience, insights, product-development know-how and unique background, Mark will be collaborating with WhiteWater's and Prime Play's design teams to develop products from concept ideation through to prototype execution. Mark will be integral in the innovation of new product designs, product enhancements and next generation evolutions for a number of WhiteWater and Prime Play orinigal attractions.

## Blackstone Group takes SeaWorld Entertainment public to raise funds

NEW YORK — The Blackstone Group announced on Dec. 27 that it will take SeaWorld Entertainment public in hopes of raising up to $100 million from the initial public offering. Blackstone is also the parent company of Virginia's Busch Gardens and Water Country USA as well as Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.

The funds generatedwill be used to pay down debt and to make a payment to Blackstone, which bought the company from Anheuser-Busch InBev in 2009. Blackstone retains a controlling interest in the company.

According to published records, the company brings in an average of $58.43 in revenue for each ticket sold. Approximately 62 percent of company revenues come from ticket sales while dining and merchandise count for the balance. In the year ending Sept. 30, the company took in $444 million in food and beverages and paid $99 million.

The filing illustrates that SeaWorld's capital spending increased after Blackstone acquired the company. SeaWorld spent $225 million on capital improvements in 2011, when it opened new attractions in eight of 10 parks.

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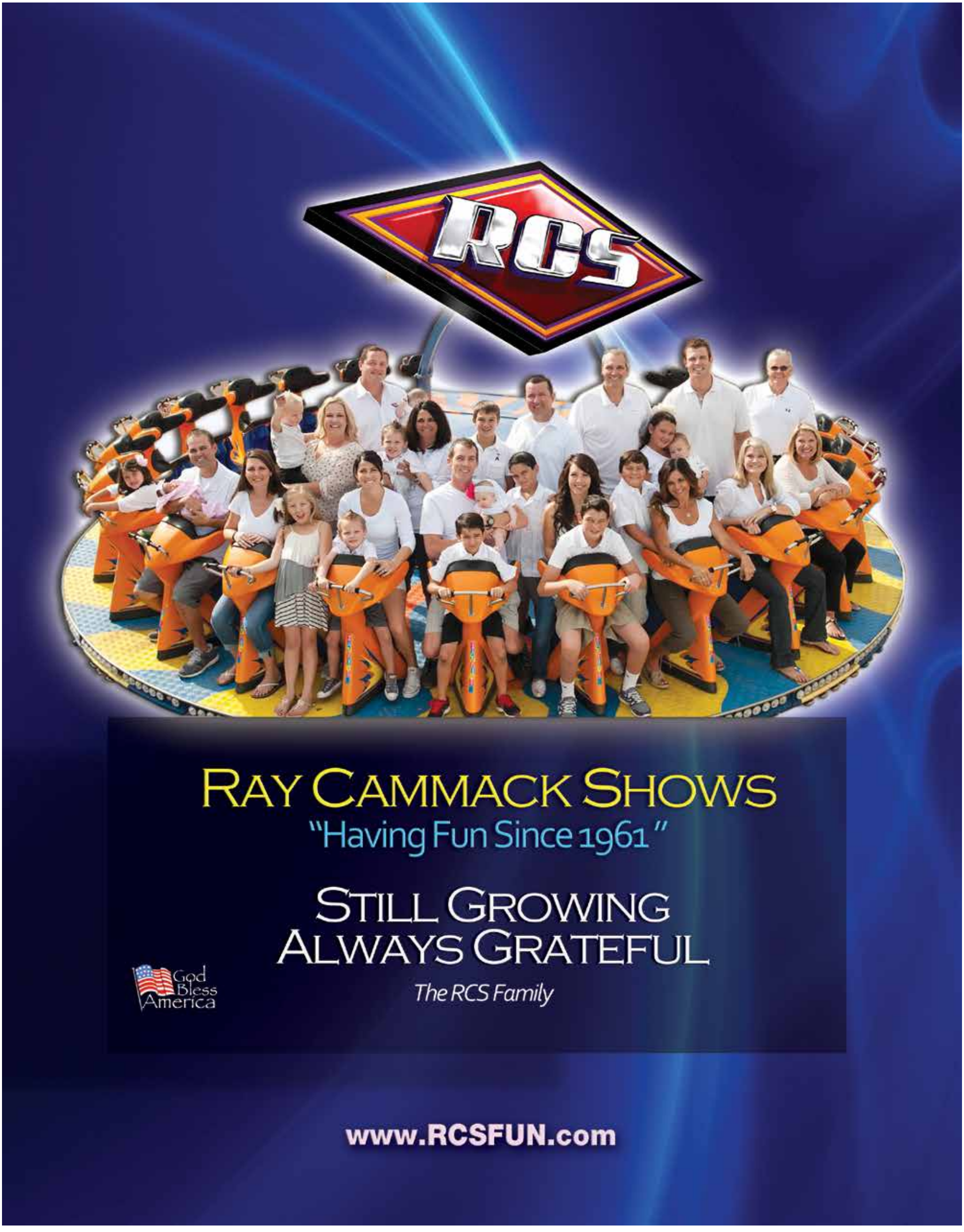
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# MIDWAY

CARNIVALS STATE FAIRS REVENUE SUPPLIERS

## Reporter's Notebook

### Pickering now on the job at Cal Expo

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Rick Pickering took over as head of the California State Fair, Sacramento, at the end of 2012. The new Cal Expo general manager replaced the retiring Norb Bartosik.

Pickering, 54, had been the CEO of the Alameda County Fair, Pleasanton, Calif., since 1999.

The Alameda County Fair is one of the most decorated fairs in the nation and has been deemed the "fasted growing fair in north America", by industry publications, with a 44 percent increase in attendance over the past four years.

Pickering has also served as deputy general manager of the Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa, Calif., and spent 12 years in city government including stints with the cities of Costa Mesa and Torrance, Calif.

The 2013 California State Fair will be held July 12-28. The Alameda County Fair is set for June 19-July 7.

## Quoted

**"Texas has some fabulous artisits and this is a great way to showcase them."**

*—Artisit Lottie Minick on her producing a outdoor art sculpture show during the annual State Fair of Texas*

# Erie County Fair to spend millions in upgrades, additions, expansions

**Erie County Fair officials are keeping busy with the abundance of additions, expansions and improvements that are taking place and being planned on the fairgrounds in Hamburg, N.Y. Above is a rendering of a new restroom facility set to be built this year. Below, is a draft of the planned Agricultural Discovery Center, a $6 million building that should be complete by 2014 when the fair celebrates its 175th anniversary.**

COURTESY ERIE COUNTY FAIR

**STORY:** *Pam Sherborne*
*psherborne@amusementtoday.com*

HAMBURG, N.Y. — Erie County Fair officials have spent several years trying to maintain and update existing buildings one the Erie County Fairgrounds.

But, over the last 18 months, they have been able to stick enough money into savings to begin actually replacing some of those buildings and making other major improvements.

According to Denny Lang, CEO and fair manager, fairground renovations actually began about three years when they opened an expanded Hamburg Casino gaming center. The center opened on the grounds in 2004.

The new Hamburg Casino complex, with between 60,000-75,000 sq.-ft. in space, cost about $25 million. Those renovations proved to be just what they needed to bring more people into the gaming center, which provided

▸ See ERIE, page 42

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# ILC tops off tower at State Fair of Texas

**STORY:** *Pam Sherborne*
*psherborne@amusementtoday.com*

DALLAS, Texas — There were no fireworks blasting. There was no orchestra playing. There was no horn blaring.

But, there was a celebration, more of a quiet celebration as a crew with ILC Construction Inc., a division of International Leisure Construction, up over 400 feet off the ground, positioned and set the needle atop Texas Tower observation tower, a tower that certainly will be viewed as a centerpiece on the grounds of the State Fair of Texas. The structure, rising 500 feet into the sky, is set to be completed in two months. That will give the fair staff 30 days to get trained and ready to go for the May opening of Summer Adventures in Fair Park.

"Today, in the rain, we installed the machine house, then set the building over that," said Joe Bixler of ILC on January 8. "Then, we put the needle on top, completing the 500 feet.

"We are real delighted with the topping off," he said. "We plan to have a barbecue this afternoon for everyone."

And, the rain won't stop those plans as they plan to hold the event in a large warehouse where everyone can "come in and get dry."

This may be the highest achievement reached for Bixler and his partner Nick Galash, but not the first. The two have also:

• Installed the amusement park for Landry's Pleasure Pier, Galveston, Texas.

• Installed a Chance 60-meter wheel in Seattle, Wash., also in 2012.

• Installed a Chance 60-meter wheel in Myrtle Beach, S.C. , in 2011

• Installed a Chance Century Wheel at Palace Playland in Orchard Beach, Maine, in 2011.

• Installed a Schwarzkopf coaster for the San Marcos Fair in Aguascalientex, Mexico, in 2008.

• Installed a 200-foot observation tower, as well as all the other rides except for the wooden coaster, for the Landry's development in Kemah, Texas, in 2004.

• And, in 2002, removed rides from the MGM Grand Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

But, the 500-foot tower, manufactured by Intamin, is the tallest to date.

The huge structure came onto the fairgrounds in six separate tubes, which were prepared horizontally. The tubes measure, beginning with tube one that was fitted first, 40 feet long, 49 feet long, 64 feet, 64 feet, 80 feet and 114 feet.

The first tube slipped 16 feet into a prepared massive substructure. Then, with the help of a special crane, each piece was added on top another.

It took 10 days for the company TNT to customize the hydraulic crane, primarily used to work on wind turbines, so that it could reach up to about 550 feet. It cost a half million dollars to move the crane onto and off the grounds.

The first two tubes had 64, 64-millimeter bolts that were torqued to 11,000 foot-pounds.

**The new 500-foot tall Intamin observation tower for the State Fair of Texas was topped off on Jan. 8.**
COURTESY ILC

"We had our crew up inside the tube ready to positive each piece and then bolt it," Bixler said. "There is a straight up ladder inside the tube, with no exterior ladder. There will be an interior service elevator, but it hadn't been installed yet so our crew had to use the ladder inside."

The tools were actually laid into each tube so when the crane positioned it, the crew on the step-outs up inside the tube had tools ready at hand.

"It took about one day to fit one tube," Bixler said. "We were able to do two tubes in one day, but the rest were done one a day."

The crew for ILC, which were actually doing the ride erection, numbered four to six depending on the day. But, there were others present including the electrical contractors and an elevator company. There were also State Fair of Texas officials on hand.

January 8 was quite a day, Bixler said, as the last piece was fitted.

The observation tower, which will have a 100-rider capacity, is expected to be fully operational by the time the new venture opens in May. Plans are to have 25 rides, as well as other attractions such as shows, games and retail. Summer Adventures is also expected to have a 100-day operational season.

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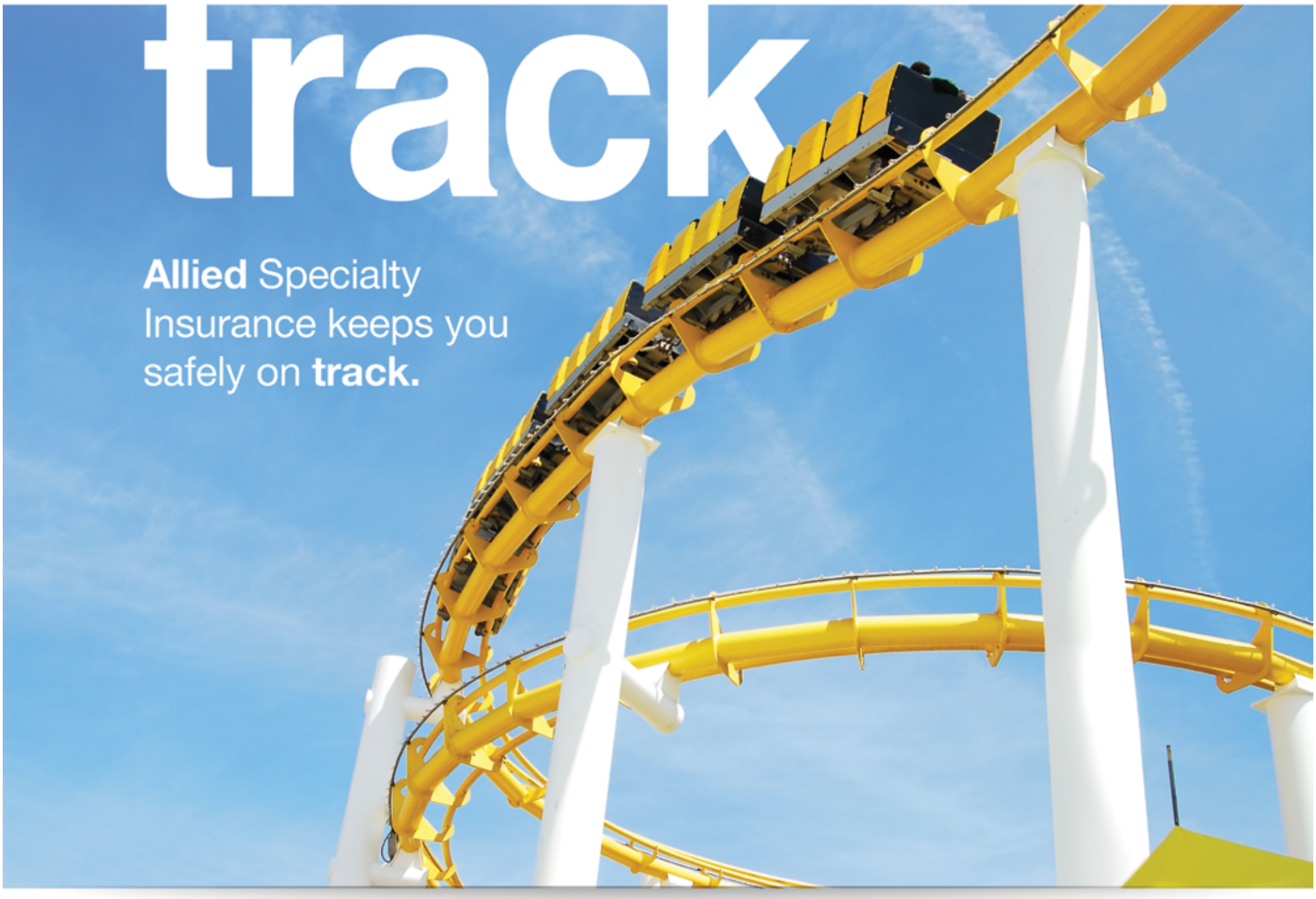

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**This is a rendering of the Erie County Fair's planned new First Aid Building that should be completed in 2013.**
COURTESY ERIE COUNTY FAIR

## ERIE

**Continued from page 39**

more funding for the fair.

Last year, they were able to open their new $600,000 Firemen's Building.

"It is more convenient and more guest friendly now," Lang said.

They were also just able to complete two new barns for the racehorses that moved onto the grounds the first 2013.

Other additions, expansions and improvements include:

•Demolishing the New York State Lottery building and moving that operating into the Expo Hall. This will allow them to widen the food court area to provide green space with tables, chairs, and shade. The new area will measure in size about 170 feet by 125 feet.

•Demolishing the bathrooms on 42nd Street and build a new restroom facility in a design comparable to the Firemen's Building so, said Lang, "we can start having more consistency in our buildings."

•Demolishing two barns, Barn 2 and Barn 5, and replacing them with new barn facilities.

•Construction of a new 18,000-square-foot maintenance building.

•Construction of a new first aid station, provided by Rural/Metro Medical Services.

•Construction of a new $6 million, 60,000-square-foot Agricultural Discovery Center that is scheduled to open in time for the 2014 fair, which will be the Erie County Fair's 175th anniversary.

Lang said he really doesn't have estimated cost figures on all the projects as yet.

"We have had different bids from different contractors for different parts of the project, so I would be just grabbing numbers if I gave out an estimate right now," he said. "The only estimate we have gotten so far is the one for the Agricultural Discovery Center.

"And, yes, it is all very exciting," Lang said.

This new center will operate year-round, he said. Of the 60,000 square-feet in the center, 25,000 square-feet will be used for an Experience Center to provide agricultural education to schools.

"We have so much going on here and we have buildings all over the fairgrounds," Lang said.

For example, the grounds host 32 off-season horse shows annually. There are buildings serving that. There are buildings on the other side of the grounds utilized for our parimutuel racing that takes place from January through August.

And, then of course, there is the fair, which will run this year from Aug. 7-18. Last year, the fair drew 1,031,275, just slightly off its record attendance set in 2011 of 1,053,150.

Strates Shows will provide the midway this year as it has done since 1924. The carnival now provides about 70 rides and 100 games.

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## MIDWAY LIGHTS

**COMPILED:** Pam Sherborne, psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Management at the **California State Fair** announced last month that the Northern California Brewers Guild (NCBG) will take over as coordinators for the 2013 California State Fair Commercial Craft Brew Competition and the California State Fair Home Brew Competition. The NCGB is a 501(C) 6 non-profit trade association representing over 95 percent northern California Brewers, and works with and directly supports the California Craft Brewers Association, which represents over 330 California Brewers statewide. California has more breweries than any other state in the nation with the numbers increasing annually.

California historically remains a leader in the industry.

•

**Scott McDougall** of South Bend, Wash., is the new manager of the **Pacific County Fair**, Menlo, Wash. He was to start the last day of January.

McDougall replaces **Curt Marsh**, who resigned after being the fair manager for two years.

McDougall has 10 years of management experience in the grocery business and he also has experience with budget matters as a current member of the Willapa Harbor Hospital Commissioner.

"The budget for county fair is really drying up because of how state money is going away and the county can't afford it either," McDougall was reported as saying in a local report. "I'm going to look at non-traditional sources like grant opportunities and corporate sponsorships. I'm going to think outside the box a little bit."

McDougall has the tough task of getting more people to attend a fair that has been dying in the past four or five years. Last year there were a lot of empty spaces in buildings and vendors were also down. Plus, he's fighting a dwindling budget.

The Pacific County Fair runs August 21-24, 2013, and the theme is Quilts and Roses, Tails and Noses.

•

The **National Western Stock Show** will remain in Denver, Colo., after a brief notion of perhaps moving to Aurora, Colo. The 2013 stock show ran Jan. 12-27.

In 2011, the stock show presented a detailed business plan for its future with five options — from doing nothing to spending $500 million to expand and rebuild at the current site. To do nothing, the report said, would plunge the stock show into bankruptcy within seven years.

So, while the decision has been made for the 106-year event to remain in its current location in Denver, the event may ultimately have a different look. Event officials are now awaiting a feasibility study by Visit Denver and the city's Arts & Venues Department.

The goal is for the National Western complex to be filled with events year-round.

•

**The State Fair of Texas** is taking donations to help build a new **Big Tex**.

The 52-foot-tall cowboy and fair icon for 60 years burned this year due to an electrical short. The fire left charred remains and twisted metal.

Fair organizers have vowed to build a new Big Tex, but it won't come cheap. Fair spokeswoman **Sue Gooding** has said the cowboy was insured for close to $200,000 — well short of the estimated $450,000 to $600,000 a rebuild will take.

So the fair launched a donation page on the website www.bigtex.com.

Gooding said Big Tex would now come with a fire-suppression system and no guide wires. Officials expect to see designs this month and hope to start fabrication of the new BigTex by early February.

•

So many recreational vehicles owned by those working in the oil and gas industry were parked at the Washington County, Marietta, Ohio, fairgrounds from November 2011 to May 2012 that the **Washington County Fair** Board ended up having to declare the fairground's main parking lot a RV park.

In a licensing and permit process that started in October 2011 and was completed recently, fair board members worked to complete all necessary steps in the process.

Now that all permits, licenses and insurance have been received for the **Washington County Midway RV Park** near the fairground's main entrance, the area can be used in multiple ways: as a RV park, parking lot and a midway for fair concessions.

Now, the RV park is licensed for 50 camping sites, with 25 utility poles and hookups for two RVs per pole. Sites offer full hookup including electricity, water and sewer. The monthly fee for a space is $275. Overnight stays cost $20.

The oil and gas-related campers who stayed at the park for several months in 2011 and 2012 brought in about $28,000, a substantial amount for the fair.

Most of the pipeline workers camped at the fairgrounds worked for **Price Gregory International**, headquartered in Houston, Texas.

•

**The Houston (Texas) Livestock Show and Rodeo** board of directors authorized in the last month of 2012 show officials to acquire 48 acres of land out of a 92-acre tract commonly referred to as the Astroworld property.

This land, to be purchased from MHB Asset LP, Fort Worth, will serve as a long-term investment for the show, diversifying its investment portfolio.

The purchase also will facilitate significant near-term operating opportunities that include spectator parking and the possible relocation of show-time support personnel, support vehicles, and logistical operations. This purchase is a strategic transaction that will provide significant flexibility in show operations now and many years into the future.

The 48-acre tract abuts Chuck Davis Chevrolet on the west and generally runs north to south from Loop 610 to W. Bellfort and has ingress and egress from Loop 610, Kirby and W. Bellfort. The property has access to the pedestrian bridge that crosses over Loop 610 to the Reliant Park parking lot.

The purchase price of the land to the show, after charitable considerations by the seller, is $42,863,040 ($20.50 per square foot).

The 2013 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is set for Feb. 25-March 17. Total attendance last year was 2,257,970, just slightly off 2011's record of 2,262,834.

•

Although **Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe** didn't officially take over as the new **Kentucky State Fair** board president and CEO until the first day of 2013, he was already getting ready before 2012 was over.

That included moving to Louisville from Las Vegas, meeting with Kentucky Gov. **Steve Beshear** and Louisville Mayor **Greg Fischer**, and talking at length with retiring board president, **Harold Workman**.

Rippetoe had a "meet and greet" with Louisville media representatives at the first of January, his first public exposure in Louisville since the board hired him in October for $250,000 a year.

He told those attending that the job "seems monumental in many ways" and he intends to meet the challenges one at a time. Most are budget-related, he acknowledged.

Rippetoe, 52, said he wants to take the first several months to assess what needs to be done and to build relationships with his staff, tourism- and economic-development agencies such as the Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau, and with users of the board's facilities.

•

**The North Dakota State Fair Association**, Minot, wants to move the **Pioneer Village** museum off the state fairgrounds and use the vacated land to expand the state fair.

The issue was addressed at the regular meeting of the State Fair board in late 2012. The fair board members refused the **Ward County Historical Society** immediate permission to move a historic 1887 red schoolhouse to the museum.

Instead of giving the museum board permission, the fair board voted to ask fair board attorney to draw up a memorandum of understanding between the fair board and the historical society. The agreement is to include a set of terms and conditions under which the school house could be moved to the fairgrounds and who would be responsible for moving it if the Pioneer Village is eventually relocated.

However, the museum society members, who operate the museum, said they don't have the money to relocate the 13 buildings on the grounds and finding land near Minot to relocate the museum could prove difficult.

The State Fair Association's master plan for the fairgrounds is to eventually build a new convention center in the location the museum wants to put the schoolhouse.

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# State Fair of Texas hosts largest outdoor sculpture show in the state

**STORY:** *Pam Sherborne*
*psherborne@amusementtoday.com*

DALLAS, Texas — Lottie Minick is proud to say that the State Fair of Texas, Dallas, is now the stage for the largest outdoor sculpture show in the state.

The show has been a labor of love for Minick, who has been producing it the past seven years. She has been able to bring some of the best Texas artists in front of hundreds of thousands of fair guests.

"Texas has some fabulous artists and this is a great way to showcase them," she said. "In fact, I only take artists from Texas."

There are 35 pieces selected to be part of the annual exhibition now. The pieces are placed in the Discovery Garden of the fairgrounds, beginning at the fountain, which creates an entrance into the gardens.

This garden area at the fair was created in 2002 to host a professional landscaping competition. The first year there were about eight landscaping firms competing against each other. It has now grown to more than 50 companies tending to about 100 beds. And, it

▸ See SFOT, page 46

**Bob and Lottie Minick have been long-time supporters and business associates of the State Fair of Texas, Dallas. Bob Minick, Minick Associates, has been working on the master design for Summer Adventures at Fair Park, a permanent park the fair plans to open this May. Lottie Minick has been producing the outside sculpture exhibit at the Fall Garden Exhibit at the State Fair. The piece shown here, called the Spin Golly, was created by Lottie Minick with collaboration with two other state fair artists.** AT/PAM SHERBORNE; ART COURTESY LOTTIE MINICK

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**At left, is Lottie Minick's Garden Aquatic sculpture that was shown in the sculpture exhibit at the State Fair of Texas. To create this piece she welded flat rods into an octopus, fish and seaweed shapes, then welded all that into an old wagon wheel a friend had given her. To the right, is also her piece called Randall's Music Garden, named after her son, Randall Minick. She used two guitars and a keyboard shape to create the piece, then added mosaic to each.**
COURTESY LOTTIE MINICK


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## SFOT

Continued from page 44

is not uncommon for participants to tend the beds all year long.

This area is also the site of the Southern Living Speaker Series held during the fair. The official title of the garden events and exhibitions during the fair is the State Fair Fall Garden Exhibition.

Artists who want to their art in the show first need to submit drawings to Minick, who then selects them. Criteria for the pieces include: pieces can't be over five feet tall; there can't be any sharp edges; and they have to be family friendly.

Other than that, the pieces can have a variety of theming and be made from a variety of mediums such as mosaic, glass, metal and wood.

All the artwork is for sale, but buyers can't take ownership until after the fair.

Minick is also an artist and has sculptures in the show.

"This isn't something I have always done," she said.

Actually, it took a low point in her life for her husband, Bob Minick, Minick Associates, a firm that provides design and development services to the entertainment industry, to suggest she just try something different.

"So, I took a welding class," she said. "Now, I have a studio and kilns."

The couple has been involved in the fair for many years.

"I wasn't sure I could really do this," she said of her first years at producing the art show. "But, I have had a lot of help. And, I love being able to find a place for people to see how many great artists are in Texas."

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